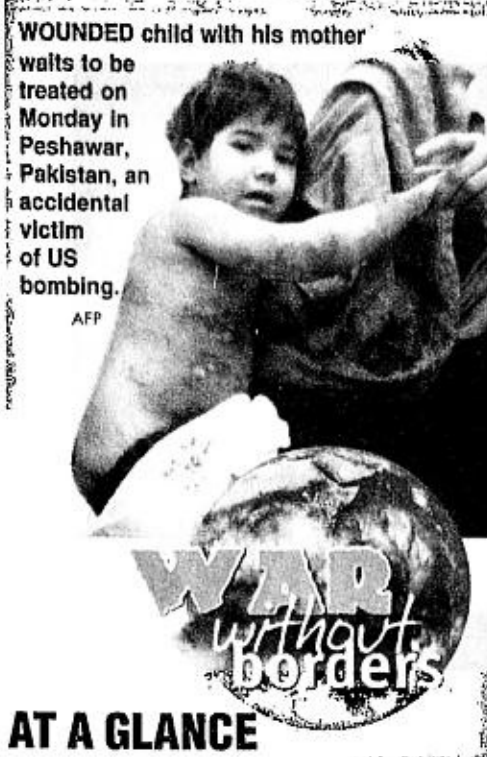


Gang leader tags MILF in priest's kidnap

STORY
ON PAGE A2



WOUNDED child with his mother waits to be treated on Monday in Peshawar, Pakistan, an accidental victim of US bombing.

AFP

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2001 ★ 48 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 324 P.15

Erap 'winning' in perjury case

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

STATE prosecutors appeared to have blown the first of two perjury cases against Joseph Estrada because of what the Sandiganbayan said was their "thoroughly vague" charge against the deposed President.

Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, chair of the anti-graft court's first division, ruled yesterday. **ERAP/A14**

Gloria: My husband is not above the law

Says corruption raps vs Mike 'occupational hazard'

BY CARLITO PABLO

HONG KONG—"Even my husband is not above the law."

So declared President Macapagal-Arroyo as she vowed to fight corruption at all levels of the government amid controversies hounding her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

The President made the vow in a speech Sunday night before media leaders attending the World Economic Forum at the Grand Hyatt Hotel here.

"I consider intrigues against him an occupational hazard, but nonetheless I refer them to a constitutionally independent body," the President said of the First Gentleman.

Ms Macapagal was referring to her earlier decision to refer to the Office of the Ombudsman two corruption charges against her husband.

One involved an alleged payoff to the First Gentleman in exchange for recalling his wife's veto of two telecommunication franchise bills.

The other involved the alleged diversion of funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to finance part of the publicity campaign of four administration senatorial candidates in the May 11 election.

The Senate is conducting a separate investigation of the allegations against the First Gentleman.

"We do not hesitate to investigate any serious allegation and we hold anyone accountable if corruption has been found to take place," the President said.

She said this seriousness "is an important **GLORIA/A4**

Mike decides to 'disappear,' stops broadcasts

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

CONTROVERSY-hounded First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo has decided to "disappear."

His spokesperson, Patricia Bunye, said the First Gentleman had thought that this was the best action that he could take amid criticisms that he was "too visible."

Bunye said the First Gentleman quietly withdrew from his weekly TV and radio programs "two to three weeks" ago.

His TV show, aired over government-owned **MIKE/A4**



THE KEYNOTE speaker at the World Economic Forum's East Asia summit in Hong Kong, President Macapagal gives the thumbs-up sign after being introduced by the forum's managing director, Frederic Sicre. **AFP**

GMA: Don't forget economy

BY CARLITO PABLO

HONG KONG—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday proposed that the international war against terrorism be tied to a determined effort to fight global recession.

"Dealing with terrorism is our most urgent priority," the President told 800 business leaders, members of the ac-

deme and media executives at the 10th East Asia Economic Summit organized by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum.

But she also said in her keynote address that the international coalition against terrorism could be directed "to lift the global economy out of its lethargy."

"The coalition that has been built

and the relationships that have been fortified in our collective response to terrorism can and must extend to global, regional and bilateral economic relations," Ms Macapagal said.

Citing a recent World Bank report, she warned that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks could lead to a full-blown global recession, which in turn could cause **GMA/A14**

2 Filipinos linked to Canadian's murder in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY—Two Filipinos and a Kuwaiti have been arrested in connection with the murder earlier this month of Canadian Luc Ethier, a senior security source said Monday.

The source told Agence France Presse that one of the Filipino suspects was arrested on Saturday. He led security authorities to another Filipino who visited Kuwait at the time of the murder and returned last week to Saudi Arabia where he worked.

"The second Filipino is being sent to Kuwait today and we will continue questioning him," said the source, adding that the Interpol was involved in tracking the suspect down in neighboring Saudi Arabia.

"The Filipino we have in custody claims the **2 FILIPINOS/A14**

Abus suspect in Zamboanga bombing



THE REMAINS of a food plaza in Zamboanga City after a bomb ripped through the open-air hub of small restaurants and pubs on Sunday, killing five and wounding 56. **CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU**

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

ABU Sayyaf bandits emerged as the main suspects in Sunday's blast that ripped through a crowded food plaza in Zamboanga City, killing at least six people and injuring scores of others.

A can packed with a kilogram of explosives and five-inch nails blew up shortly before 8 p.m. Sunday inside a barbecue stand at the Zamboanga City Puericulture Center, an open-air hub of small eateries and pubs. Police disarmed a second explosive device planted nearby.

"The attack, the manner it was done, points to the Abu Sayyaf," Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

The explosion came as a team of US military advisers began training elite Filipino troops that are hunting down the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan. The bandits are holding 11 hostages, including an American Christian missionary couple.

The Abu Sayyaf was set up with **ABUS/A14**



Vietnam War choppers for US advisers

AMERICAN military advisers in Mindanao are learning first-hand of the equipment shortage of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

And government officials are hoping this will induce the Pentagon to boost aid, the chief of the military's Southern Command said yesterday.

The advisers are ferried to Basilan from Zamboanga City every day aboard **VIETNAM/A4**

2 YOU leaders yanked out of Metro posts

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

TWO stalwarts of the Young Officers Union (YOU) have been given separate provincial assignments, apparently to quell once and for all rumors of a brewing coup plot.

Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police said at a news conference yesterday that YOU chair Supt. Rafael Cardeño had been given a still unspecified post in Iloilo City in the Western Visayas, and that YOU founder Supt. Diosdado Valeroso would be assigned to the Western Mindanao Command.

Cardeño was chief of operations of the Land Transportation Office, while Valeroso worked at the PNP headquarters support group in Camp Crame.

The two officers drew public attention following suspicions that they were plotting a coup against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo. **2 YOU/A4**

MILF tagged in priest's kidnap


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St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College Manila

Virgin International has informed us that due to the current international situation, travel for their artists have been cancelled.



EARTH BEAUTIES

VAL HANDUMON

Blonde, blue-eyed Catharina Svensson of Denmark (second from left) wears the Miss Earth crown in the first-ever international beauty pageant with a cause for "Mother Earth" during Sunday night's coronation at the UP Theater. Making up her court are (from left) Daniela Stucan of Argentina, Miss Earth-Fire; Simone Regis of Brazil, Miss Earth-Wind; and Margarita Kravstova of Kazakhstan, Miss Earth-Water. They bested 38 other beauties from all over the world.

15 killed as troops, NPA rebs clash

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Army soldiers climbing a hill while on patrol chanced upon a group of communist guerrillas going the other way, sparking a five-hour firefight that killed 15 people, a military spokesperson said yesterday.

About 30 rebels were also wounded in the clash in a remote village of San Fernando town in Bukidnon on Friday that killed five soldiers and 10 rebels, said army spokesperson Maj. Johnny Macanas.

"Our soldiers were in a disadvantageous position," he said.

The 14 soldiers, led by a captain, were also outnumbered but they were able to call for reinforcements, allowing them to inflict heavy rebel casualties, Macanas said.

The scene of the fighting is near a known guerrilla stronghold.

The rebels have been battling the government for a Marxist state in the Philippines for 32 years. AP

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Laguna mayor slain in ambush

SUSPECTED communist guerrillas ambushed a Laguna town mayor yesterday, killing him and two other people, police said.

Mayor Bernardo Sarayot of Mabaitac, Laguna, was on his way to Metro Manila with his driver when suspected members of the New People's Army waylaid him on the national highway, police said.

Sarayot and the driver were fatally shot while an ensuing firefight between responding authorities left a police of-

ficer dead, police said.

"Mayor Sarayot was killed along with his driver. He was ambushed at 3 p.m.," regional police chief Domingo Reyes told dzBB radio.

Two assailants were captured following a brief chase, but two others were still at large, Reyes said. Authorities recovered high-powered automatic rifles from the arrested suspects, who were undergoing "tactical interrogation."

"The investigation is ongoing, there

is an ongoing chase. A police officer and his (Sarayot's) driver were killed," Reyes said.

He said police had earlier warned Sarayot to take precautions because intelligence reports indicate he was included in the NPA's hit list for his support of the government's counter-insurgency drive.

"We have been warning him, but it seemed there were lapses in security on the mayor's part," he said. AFP

DPWH EXEC'S TALE

'Men in mask kidnapped me'

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

A FORMER public works provincial official, reported missing for the past week, emerged at the weekend and confirmed that he had been kidnapped by "men in masks."

Romeo Pangiban, a former regional director for Southern Luzon of the public works department, showed up on Sunday at the Fairview house of Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, and revealed that he had paid his captors P1.8 million in cash and P200,000 in jewelry.

Meanwhile, another DPWH official associated with Pangiban, Undersecretary Mabini Pablo, is in hot water for allegedly "selling" key DPWH positions and for demanding that his underlings fork out P30,000 "per hole" for the golf tournaments that he organizes.

"I am also going to have that investigated," Datumanong said of Pablo, who is known to be close to jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

In an interview, Datumanong said that Pangiban—looking "pale" and wearing a dark jacket and hat to conceal his identity—confirmed that he was kidnapped on the night of Oct. 21 and was released at midnight of Oct. 24.

"I asked him whether he recognized his abductors, he said he did not because they were wearing masks the whole time," Datumanong said.

Pangiban was with DPWH assistant secretary Jesus Cammayo and undersecretary Teodoro Encarnacion when he went to see Datumanong.

Asked by Datumanong how he was able to raise the ransom money, Pangiban replied that his brother, Dennis Pangiban, the mayor of Sta. Cruz,

Laguna, came up with the cash, while a sister contributed jewelry from her pawnshop.

Datumanong said Pangiban had also denied press reports that he owned many prime properties and a large fleet of expensive cars.

Pangiban told Datumanong that he only owned about three cars. The Ayala Alabang house that he reportedly owns belonged to his brother, Dennis, Pangiban said.

Pangiban, reportedly the favorite engineer of Estrada, is also believed to be very close to ethnic Chinese businessman and Estrada crony, Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Pangiban was reportedly kidnapped by armed men in front of a cockpit in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. The kidnappers demanded a P100 million ransom.

But it is rumored at the DPWH that Pangiban may have paid P50 million to the kidnappers who are said to be members of the military to whom Pangiban owed some money.

Cammayo, in a separate interview, said Pangiban was spinning an altogether different tale. "Pangiban is saying he was not really the one that the kidnappers had targeted. He was mistaken for somebody else," Cammayo said.

"He said he overheard his abductors saying: 'This is not the guy we were supposed to abduct.' He says the whole incident may be a case of mistaken identity," Cammayo added.

Pangiban was supposed to officially report for work to Cammayo yesterday, but had not shown up as of press time.

Datumanong said he would look into complaints against Pablo by mid-level department employees.

Joe de V 'reaching out' to minority

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday said he would reach out to the minority in a bid to resolve the House's controversial approval last week of the P780.8 billion national budget on second reading.

De Venecia told reporters that he would reach out to the 18-member minority coalition "today and next week" as he noted that he has "good relations" with the members.

Indeed, he took yesterday's affair organized by the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI) as an opportunity to speak with Muntinlupa City Rep. Rossano Rufino Biazon over the matter.

"The Speaker told me we need the budget to push through," Biazon told the INQUIRER at the groundbreaking rites for the National Center for Children in Alabang, Muntinlupa City where he and De Venecia both attended.

But Biazon said the minority was still finalizing its moves, adding that it was still "contemplating of filing" a case before the high court on the legality of the proceedings that culminated in the budgets' approval last Friday.

No pork increase, says budget chief

LEGISLATORS did not increase their "pork barrel" allotment when they passed the P780.8-billion national budget for next year in a marathon session last Thursday, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said.

Boncodin, who was present during the controversial House session which approved the budget on second reading, said the "pork barrel" fund for each of the 212 congressmen, including the party-list representatives, remained at P50 million.

"As far as I know they did not change their allocation... it's still P50 million each," Boncodin said in a radio interview.

Each of the 24 senators will be entitled to propose "development projects" for funding of up to P100 million.

The "pork barrel" fund, now called the Priority Development Assistance Projects (PDAP), totals P3.3 billion, Boncodin said.

She said Congress did not reduce Malacañang's proposed P780.8-billion budget, but made changes in the budgetary allocations of some departments.

She said she was still checking the changes that were made. Some opposition lawmakers have threatened to take the matter of the allegedly illegal passage of the budget to the Supreme Court.

They claimed that the House majority had "railroaded" the passage at past midnight of Thursday when Congress was already in recess. Congress went on a two-week recess last Friday.

Boncodin said what happened may have merely been an "oversight" on the part of legislators.

"They forgot that it was past midnight, maybe in their eagerness to pass the bill already," she said.

But Boncodin said the House leadership had asked for a vote on the question of whether they should proceed with the deliberations, contrary to the opposition's claim.

The House leadership has promised President Macapagal-Arroyo it would pass the budget bill before Congress adjourns. *Dona Pazibugan*

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OUTSTANDING JOURNALISTS

VALHANDUMON

The three winners of the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Journalist Awards pose with their plaques shortly after yesterday's presentation ceremonies. They are Armando Malay Sr. for Distinguished Leadership in Journalism, Jessica Soho (right) for Broadcast Journalism and Sheila Coronel for Print Journalism. The Awards are sponsored by the Metrobank Foundation and conducted by the Asian Institute of Journalism.

Deza, former CSC exec; 68

ALFREDO Berbano Deza, former executive director of the Civil Service Commission, died on Saturday after a lingering illness. He was 68.

Deza, a lawyer (UP 1956), served for more than 30 years at the CSC, spanning the tenures of eight heads of the commission. He was also chairman of the merits systems board, director for legal affairs, and assistant regional director, among others.

Deza, a resident of Parañaque City and a native of Cagayan province, is survived by wife Norma R. Palma, also a lawyer, and children Rowena, Carmina, Melissa, Jenina Belinda, Alfredo Eric Jr. and Fernando Edwin.

The body lies at the Gallery Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment plans will be announced later.

Senators on travel binge

IT'S travel time again for senators of the 12th Congress, many of whom appear to favor the United States as a travel destination.

Heading the travelers' list is Sen. Ramon Revilla who left for the United States a week before the Senate began a two-week recess last Oct. 26.

Sen. Edgardo Angara left for New York last week to attend the United Nations General Assembly meeting where he spoke on the need to alleviate global poverty.

Sen. Tessie Oreta-Aquino is also in the US, reportedly on the invitation of the Filipino community.

Sen. Vicente Sotto is in Florida, attending a conference on narcotics.

Also in the US is Sen. Panfilo Lacson who flew to San Francisco by way of Hong Kong last Friday, reportedly for "consultations" with the Filipino community there and to attend a meeting of US-based Caviteños.

Sen. Robert Barbers is attending the Asia-Pacific parliamentary conference on economic development, also in the US.

From there, Barbers will be going on a pilgrimage to the shrines of the Child Jesus and the Virgin Mary in Portugal in gratitude for his successful throat operation early this year.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay left for Germany to attend a conference on

cooperatives and will reportedly proceed to the US for a vacation.

Senators Francis Pangilinan and Noli de Castro joined the entourage of President Macapagal-Arroyo who is on a three-day state visit to China.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar has also gone to China, but is apparently on a private trip.

Sen. Loren Legarda is in Japan for a five-day meeting with Japanese lawmakers.

Spending two weeks in Argentina are Senators John Osmeña and Renato Cayetano for a conference on energy.

Sen. Blas Ople, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, is to go to Doha, Qatar, for the World Trade Organization meeting from Nov. 3 to 9.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel, Franklin Drilon and Robert Jaworski and Sotto are meeting up in London and joining a congressional delegation that will be conferring with British members of parliament from Nov. 3 to 9. Cynthia D. Balana

This solon can't even get a visa

BY J. JAVELLANA

BEING member of the legislature often includes perks and opens many doors, but not to Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran.

Beltran, a familiar name and face in many a militant struggle in the country, could not even get a visa to the United States.

In fact, his chief of staff, Rudy Corro Jr., said he has been consistently barred entry to the US.

"The US Embassy in the Philippines has consistently been refusing to give Rep. Beltran a travel visa since 1986, when he first applied for one after he surfaced from two years in hiding because of martial law," Corro said.

Beltran said the US State Department has declared Beltran an "enemy of the US and a persona non grata" because of his "strong anti-US interventionist policy activism." Corro said many militant labor and

cause-oriented groups in the US have been inviting Beltran for a speaking engagement but he has been unable to oblige them because of the US ban.

Corro made the disclosure in denying another newspaper report that his boss was among the members of Congress who are spending their two-week vacation in the US.

The newspaper, he said, reported that Beltran would be in the US from Oct. 24 to Nov. 11 which Corro said was impossible because Beltran has no US visa.

Corro said the only trip Beltran has made so far since he became a member of Congress last July was on Sept. 27-Oct. 2 in the Netherlands when he was invited to speak by the Adank Klostermann Law Office on Bayan Muna's legislative and electoral agenda.

Bayan Muna was able to get enough votes in the May 14 elections to send three representatives to the 212-member House. The two others are Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza.

REMINDER

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Abused privileges

LAST week Leyte Rep. Ted Failon expressed a familiar complaint when he denounced the abusive security men escorting Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo. He said that the security convoy cut across the paths of cars and sideswiped some of them on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. One of the two policemen, he said, struck the front of his car four times and another smashed the side mirror of another vehicle along the way.

EDITORIALS

Failon said he later saw Romulo alighting from the Starex van being escorted by the security convoy. We do not know if the mild-mannered Romulo knew about the behavior of the abusive security escort. Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, later said Romulo "offered no excuses" for the policemen's actions and promised to conduct an investigation. Nearly a week after the incident, we have yet to hear about the result of the promised investigation.

Complaints about the security escorts of high-ranking government officials cutting across the paths of cars, sideswiping them and banging on vehicles are familiar by now. Just because they are escorting high-ranking officials, these policemen think they have the right to abuse the very people who pay their salaries and the salaries of the officials. They should be reminded that they and the officials they are escorting are servants of the people and that they should treat the people with courtesy and consideration.

The incident has prompted some legislators, Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. chief among them, to suggest that certain traffic privileges be taken away from some officials. Pimentel said that only the five highest ranking officials—the President, the Vice President, the Senate President, the Speaker and the Chief Justice—should be entitled to the use of courtesy car plates. We agree, because they are the heads of the three branches of government and should be given this privilege.

All other officials, including senators and representatives, should be subject to the same traffic rules that the ordinary citizen has to follow. At present, even city and town mayors enjoy traffic privileges and their escorts are as abusive as those of ranking national government officials.

It's also high time the rules on the use of sirens and overhead warning lights were strictly enforced. We recall that during the Estrada administration, even cronies and the spouses and children of officials could use sirens and rotating red lights as they sped their way through the busy streets of the metropolis. To the credit of President Macapagal, we have not heard of abuses being committed by her children and their security escorts.

To return to the Romulo incident: Let's know what happened to the investigation and if the erring security escorts have been punished. To some people this might be a minor matter, but we believe that abusive policemen have to be taught a lesson, otherwise they will commit greater and worse abuses against the people they are supposed to serve.

Undeserved titles

WE support the proposal to do away with the use of the terms "Honorable" and "Your Honor" when members of Congress address their colleagues. In the first place, what have they done to merit the honorific "Honorable"? How can the legislators be called "Honorable" when people know that some, if not many of them, are anything but honorable? Some of them probably do not even know the real meaning of the word "honor."

The term "Your Honor" is used in legislative bodies as a courteous substitute for "You" when a legislator addresses a colleague during floor discussions or debates. Members of Congress are supposed to address their remarks to the presiding officer—the Senate President in the Senate and the Speaker in the House—and not directly to the legislator they are conducting a colloquy with. But sometimes, the discussion becomes so heated and intense that they cannot avoid addressing their dialogue partners directly: "Your Honor."

But the proper way of doing it is still to address the presiding officer and to refer to the person one is discussing or debating something with the expression, for instance, "the gentleman from Manila" or "the lady from Ilocos Sur." The legislator concerned is referred to in the third person so that the discussion becomes impersonal and, in some cases, less heated.

As for the honorific "Honorable," a lot of time, effort, typewriter or computer ribbon and paper could be saved if we did away with it. What's wrong with a simple "Rep. Juan de la Cruz" or "Sen. Jose Santos"? They will be called "Honorable" by the people if and when they deserve the honor.

BECAUSE of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., the aviation industry has crashed, airlines have reduced flights and some of the world's biggest airline companies have actually gone bankrupt. But in the Philippines, people are fighting to have more international airports. At the Villamor Airbase, the third terminal of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is being constructed under a controversial contract with a group of private companies. And in Angeles City, Pampanga, people from Central and Northern Luzon held a People's Summit last Oct. 25 to push for the speedy completion of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in the former Clark Air Base.

On the theory that allowing all airlines to land in the Philippines will bring in more tourists, the administration adopted an "open skies" policy. So doesn't it follow that the more airports we have, more planes will come in?

This is crazy logic, as has been shown. Tourists are not coming in despite open skies. People are afraid to fly, and especially to the Philippines which is now notorious as the kidnapping capital of the world. So it doesn't mean that because we have more international airports, more planes will land here. But if the administration wants to be consistent, if it maintains an open skies policy, it should also have an "open airports" policy, right? Right.

That was what the People's Summit was all about. The people of Central and Northern Luzon, who would be benefited most by the speedy development of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA), named after the former president and father of the present President, are protesting the contract for the construction and operation of Naia Terminal 3 with the Philippine International Airport Terminals Corp. (Piatco). The contract has a provision that limits the operation of DMIA to only 850,000 passengers a year until Naia-3 achieves a capacity of 10 million passengers per year for three consecutive years. It also prohibits the government from operating another

ONE letter-writer, who describes himself as an American who has worked here for some time, says it is all a matter of imagination. Put yourself in the shoes of anyone of those who knew the victims who died in the attack on the World Trade Center, and see if you would not be asking for blood, too. See if you would not want swift action done, too. Look deep inside yourself, the letter-writer says, and ask yourself if you would be advocating peace then. Look deep inside yourself, he says, and see if you would not want the perpetrators of this deed to be punished in the harshest way possible. Honestly now, he says.

This isn't the only letter I've gotten on this theme. Several others have expressed the same sentiment, notably Filipinos in the United States. What if I had a loved one who perished in the attack on New York? Would I have been so pacific, or worse, forgiving?

Well, true enough, if the Abu Sayyaf should kidnap someone I know, or heaven forbid someone I love, and behead him or her, I would loudly call for their leaders to be hunted down like dogs and sent screaming to the bosom of their Maker. True enough, if they should bomb a mall in Metro Manila, and someone I know, or heaven forbid, someone I love, should happen to be there, I will spend all my waking hours finding ways to get the government to intensify its efforts to capture or kill them. True enough, if one of them should blow himself up in a Catholic church on a Sunday while someone I know, or heaven forbid someone I love, is hearing Mass, I would contribute all my resources, such as they are, to the cause of bringing the people who drove him to it to justice.

But one thing I would not do. Which is to ask the government to bomb the entire Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao if they cannot cough up the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf. Which is to ask the government to launch a full-scale war on the entire Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on the ground that *pare-pareho lang sila*, they are all the same, they all deserve to be removed like dirt from the earth.

DMIA is a better int'l airport than Naia

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



international airport in Luzon.

The People's Summit passed a resolution asking President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to amend or abrogate the contract to correct not only the above provision but other onerous provisions as well. They believe that the Piatco contract, because it hinders the development of Clark as an international airport, also hinders the development of the whole Central and Northern Luzon.

As early as 1993, then President Fidel V. Ramos issued Executive Order 174 designating the Clark airport as a premier international airport and created the Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) to manage the airport. A new passenger terminal with a capacity of 1.5 million passengers per year was built. Ramos formally opened the new Clark International Airport in 1996, paving the way for the full development of the Clark Special Economic Zone. President Macapagal subsequently renamed the airport after his late father.

So far, so good.

Then along came the Piatco contract for Naia-3, delaying the development and operation of DMIA. What's wrong with having two international airports in Luzon? Other nations have many more. New York alone has two, aside from the nearby New Jersey International Airport. The reason is that Piatco wants to have a monopoly. In this age of liberalization and competition, Piatco still insists on having a monopoly. Wouldn't it be better in terms of facilities and services to have competition between Naia and DMIA? Piatco doesn't believe so, obviously, because DMIA has all the advantages.

With its 2,500 hectares, DMIA is three times

the size of Naia's 680 hectares. Unlike Naia which is already crowded, DMIA has room for expansion to handle growing air traffic, more related structures such as cargo warehouses, repair and parking facilities and a bigger world-class terminal. Airline industry experts compare it to the Los Angeles airport and the new Chep Lap Hok Airport in Hong Kong. It has six maintenance hangars, 12 aircraft shelters, five air cargo terminals and two control towers.

DMIA has two 3.2-km parallel runways for both international and domestic traffic. It has a third runway for small aircraft. The runways are capable of handling takeoffs and landings every three minutes. The US Air Force designed and constructed them during its stay in Clark. Its wide runways are made of concrete with grooves to prevent aquaplaning (sliding) during takeoff and landing as compared to the asphalted and corrugated Naia runway. They were designed for the Space Shuttle and the C5 Galaxy, the largest military aircraft in the world which can carry more than 15 percent of the load of a Boeing 747. They can accommodate the new generation wide-bodied aircraft that will be used widely for international passenger travel in this century. They have been classified as Category 1, based on ICAO standards.

For emergency situations, DMIA's Crash Fire and Rescue capabilities exceed the highest category, or Category 9, requirements of ICAO.

Furthermore, DMIA is strategically located in the heart of Luzon and the Asia Pacific. Its full development will spur commercial and industrial activities in the region.

In comparison, Naia has short runways, is small and overcrowded, surrounded by residential communities. The Air Transportation Office has reported six major aircraft accidents at Naia with the causes all pointing to Naia's main runway 06/24.

Without even touching on the provisions of the controversial Piatco contract, these factors show the advantages of DMIA over Naia.

Compassion

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



First off because I cannot see why grief and anger should be a reason to suspend all rational thought altogether. There is no visible connection between punishing the Abu Sayyaf and bombing or letting loose vigilantes, fanatical Christian cults and paramilitary forces on the Muslim population of Mindanao, or even of Basilan, even if you know that some of them silently sympathize with the Abu Sayyaf. It only guarantees the opposite of what it sets out to do. It doesn't punish the Abu Sayyaf, it rewards them. It gives them wider support, turning silent sympathizers into active ones, indeed turning an indifferent population into a hostile one.

But infinitely more than this, I cannot see why my own grief and anger should blind me to the grief and anger the fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters of those who will die in the bombing and strafing and burning of villages will feel themselves. If I can feel a fury in the pit of my heart and soul for the killing of a loved one who never did anyone any harm, so can others. So can the mother of a child who has been hit by a stray bullet while a soldier unloads an Armalite at a mosque. So can the lone survivor of a family whose hut in one of the villages the Abu Sayyaf passes through has been razed by mortar fire.

That in fact is the breathtaking thing about those who suggest that we put ourselves in the shoes of the kin of the dead in New York to appreciate their Old Testament reaction to it. That is the mind-boggling thing about those who suggest that we exercise imagination to see the tragedy from the tear-blurred eyes of those who come to bury their dead in the city that never sleeps.

For if you can do that, surely you can do the same thing from the other end? Surely you can also put yourself in the shoes of the kin of the dead in Kabul and Kandahar to appreciate why their hearts are filled with Islamic hate and why they shout "Death to America." Surely you can exercise the same imagination and see the tragedy from the tearless eyes of those who come to bury their dead in the desert sands.

It was Milan Kundera, if I remember right, who defined compassion in "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" as the capacity to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. Compassion is the combination of the two words "com" and "passion" to suggest a profound sharing of feeling, or in fact identifying with the other person and feeling what he is feeling. I cannot see why that compassion may only be felt for the kin of the dead in New York. I cannot see why the same compassion may not be felt for the kin of the dead in Afghanistan. They are both human beings, they are both capable of grieving for their loss.

But that is the frightening thing about it, the bestowing of all humanity to one set of victims and the theft of it from the other. All by the magic wand of words, which conjures all sorts of mind tricks. By calling one innocent and the other guilty, by calling one terror and the other justice, by calling one fundamentalism and the other humanitarianism, by calling one by their names and the other by their numbers, by calling one human beings and the other collateral damage. How to look beyond this tangled skein of subterfuges and see the mangled bodies that lie there?

That is the challenge. By all means let us have imagination. By all means let us have compassion. To the letter-writers above, I say in turn, look deep inside yourselves and ask yourselves if you would be advocating war if you were one of the kin of the dead in Kabul and Kandahar. Look deep inside yourselves, and ask yourself if you would advocate bombing Afghanistan if you were looking at the flies buzzing in your kid's sleeping face in a refugee camp.

Honestly, now.

Post Sept. 11 hassles in air travel

SYDNEY—We left lovely and gracious Buenos Aires at one o'clock in the morning Saturday for the 15-hour flight to Sydney, with a one-hour stopover at Auckland, New Zealand, en-route to Manila. As we left Argentina's capital, the good memories of an all-too-brief stay lingered in our minds. Earlier I wrote that when one mentions Argentina, one thinks of three things: its tender beef from the grasslands of the central pampas region, so tender one could cut a grilled inch-thick steak with a spoon; Evita Peron, the former radio soap opera figure who "ruled" turbulent Argentina in some kind of a conjugal dictatorship with Lt. Gen. Juan Peron after World War II; and that beautiful sensuous dance which was born in Buenos Aires' bohemian quarters in the late 1900s, the tango.

The tango to the Argentines is like the air we breathe in Manila: it's everywhere. Just as Italians and Filipinos seem to be born to sing, the Argentines seem to be born to dance, and the best evidence of this is the proliferation of tango bars everywhere in the capital. So important is the tango in Argentine life that there is a national day for it and a museum exclusively for its history. We visited the colorful tree-lined San Telmo district of Buenos Aires, which used to be the enclave of the elite Buenos Aires in the earlier century. But after a yellow-fever epidemic hit that once fashionable area in the late 19th century, the elite evacuated elsewhere and since then, it has been the enclave of the artists and the bohemians and also the site of the high-density slum tenement housing, called *conventillos*. Among the shows it offers the bargain hunters in the flea market are tango exhibitions right under the sun. The tango is also an added attraction in commercial districts like Florida where couples dance to earn a few precious pesos.

When you visit Buenos Aires, people tell you not to miss a tango show. We caught it one evening at the Viejo Almacen, a restaurant in San Telmo where the tango was supposed to have been a century ago. It is said that the wealthy classes of Buenos Aires snubbed the dance the earlier decades, as it had sprung from the poorer classes, until one day it found its way to Paris and became a hit there. Only after the Parisians

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



gave their blessings to the dance did the elite of Buenos Aires accept it.

The show at the Viejo Almacen was very good, but I kept thinking of the criticism I'd heard about the tango as it is now danced. They say that it has become more of a dancesport rather than a dance, a showcase of fantastic gymnastic skills between the partners as well as theatrical histrionics, but less of the romantic emotion. The dancers we saw had a lot of agility and showmanship, but what I found sadly lacking in most of their dance numbers was the passion in the tango as the older generations knew it. In the old days, the tango, which has never been easy to learn, was a romantic tussle where the dancers seemed to be courting each other by looks and actions. Watching the tango show in Viejo Almacen, I thought that INQUIRER's founding chair Eggie Apostol, herself an expert tango dancer, would have said the same thing.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the subsequent allied response have made travel even more complicated than it already was. In various airports, security has now become so tight that a traveler had better give himself at least three hours before departure or he'd feel quite harassed. Hassle is a mild word for travel these days. One has to get used to seeing security personnel in full combat gear and body armor. At the Buenos Aires airport, they check the passenger and his belongings upon entry, asking him whether he packed his bags himself or someone else did it for him (they used to do this only at Tel Aviv's airport). Just before boarding, bags are again inspected and passengers are frisked more assiduously (even the wire in women's brassiere cups have become suspect).

I made the mistake of buying a cheap but quaint

antique bottle with a silver-plated pourer in the San Telmo flea market and packing it in my hand-carried luggage so that it would not break. I was told I couldn't carry it and so I had to check it in. The assumption, obviously, is that the bottle when broken can be turned into a deadly weapon by the terrorist. As many of you now know, for the same reason, the airlines people have replaced the innocuous stainless steel table knives given to passengers in airplanes at meals with a plastic knife which can't cut anything. Interestingly, though, they still provide stainless forks. I thought to myself, if a terrorist held such a fork to the throat of a stewardess, couldn't this be life-threatening too?

At the Auckland airport an announcement is made every few minutes that one shouldn't leave one's bags unattended. The fastest way to draw police attention is to leave one's bag somewhere; before you know it that bag will be carried out and you could be fined heavily. At the Sydney airport, the police move big dogs into the arrival area when a plane comes in, and the canines routinely sniff passengers' hand-carried luggage as they await their turn at immigration. Presumably the dogs are looking for drugs and prohibited foodstuffs such as dried meat which Filipinos have been known to try to slip in (a no-no here). Australia has been notorious for being very fussy about the entry of diseases and airport authorities seem paranoid about anything, including tea bags. I bought two small boxes of herbal tea that purported to lower my cholesterol level during a day trip to Colonia in Uruguay, an old Portuguese colony that has been declared a World Heritage Site by the Unesco. In Sydney, I declared the tea boxes at the quarantine stand in accordance with regulations, since failure to do so could mean a neat little fine.

Also at the Sydney airport, big signs warn about the foot-and-mouth disease which can be "prevented." Passengers are asked whether they visited a farm at their place of embarkation. If they did, the quarantine authorities would hose down their shoes. A cousin of mine, Oscar de Guzman, who stays in Sydney, explained that politicians could lose the elections if their administration fails to prevent FMD.

US bombings uniting Afghans

NEWS ANALYSIS

David Fox

Washington that killed more than 5,000.

"The problem is that all of this bombing has amounted to nothing so far apart from to destroy what remains in Afghanistan," said Rajib Rahmat, another political analyst. "Last night all I saw on television was an American general talking about how his expensive bullet shot a Taliban truck. They had a picture of it. But how much closer are they to Osama? Where is Mullah (Mohammad) Omar?"

"And we have many Afghans running away from the country," Rahmat continued. "What are they running from? The Taliban? No! They are running away from the Americans, from the bombing."

Rahmat said Abdul Haq's execution proved that any Afghan opposition campaign would have no chance until the bombing stopped, the rest of the world was prepared to show they were willing at least to talk to the Taliban and the raids ceased to unite Afghans with the Taliban against a common enemy.

His view was echoed by Sayed Ahmad Gailani, another highly regarded exiled Afghan leader who organized a two-day gathering last week of more than 1,500 Afghan political, religious and tribal elders to try to pave the way for the formation of a broad-based government-in-waiting in case the Taliban fall. The participants—chiefly members of Afghanistan's ethnic Pashtun majority, like most of the Taliban—called for a Loya Jirga or

traditional grand council to be called with ex-King Zahir Shah, who would be appointed to head a ruling council.

Gailani insists the Taliban's ranks are full of "moderates" who will abandon the leadership if a credible opposition emerged. But that opposition, he said, cannot have links to the US campaign—as does the opposition Northern Alliance, which is a military coalition of ethnic minorities that has been fighting against the Taliban inside the country since 1994.

"At the moment, the Taliban believe that anyone fighting them while the Americans are bombing is also an enemy," he told a news conference on Saturday. "This is the legacy of the mujahideen—when you did not fight against the Soviet Union, you were an enemy. Of course, this is not correct, but it is seen to be."

The Northern Alliance, which has made claims over the years of being on the verge of great military breakthroughs, has so far failed to gain significant ground even with US raids on Taliban frontline positions, and still controls less than 10 percent of the country. They insist there is no such thing as a moderate Taliban or any role for them in a future Afghan government—driving a wedge further between them and the Pashtun opposition.

But both sides do see a role for the ex-king, although analysts say it is too early for the former monarch, who has lived in exile in Rome since 1973, to show his hand.

"If his highness is brought to the middle of this situation, and it fails, then there is nothing left. It is the last chance," said one of Gailani's political aides. "This is why he is keeping quiet. He cannot be associated with any campaign that brings death for Afghans. He can only come if there is no fighting. That is why the bombing must stop before the king will be around."

Reuters

PESHAWAR, Pakistan—Abdul Haq had urged the Americans not to bomb Afghanistan. It would harden Afghan resolve, unite opponents behind the hard-line Taliban and make even more difficult the return of the king from 30 years in exile.

Betrayed and executed within days of slipping into Afghanistan, the veteran mujahideen commander was proved tragically right on at least one count. After 21 days of US bombing, the Taliban are strong and they are resolved.

And so when Ex-King Zahir Shah was conspicuously absent—in person and in proxy—at a council of Afghan elders last week, instead of a snub it may have been a stroke of strategic cunning, analysts and supporters said.

"The situation has become a big mess," said Mahdi ul-Adeen, a political science lecturer at Peshawar University, speaking while the family of Abdul Haq waited in vain in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar for the return of his body by his Taliban executioners.

The summary trial and execution in Afghanistan of Abdul Haq, one of the heroes of the mujahideen struggle against the decade-long Soviet occupation, shows the Taliban will stop at nothing to remain in power, analysts say. But it also underscores the dismal failure of the drive to recruit moderates from the Taliban.

"I believe Afghanistan is further away from a political settlement than it was before Sept. 11," ul-Adeen said.

Far from finding cracks in the hard-line Islamic movement, three weeks of non-stop US-led air raids have united Afghans behind, rather than turned them against, the Taliban.

Ul-Adeen and other analysts say it is difficult for ordinary Afghans to understand that the bombing campaign that is killing friends and neighbors is part of a hunt for Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, who are being blamed for the deadly Sept. 11 attacks on New York and

Kemlein and Johnson's 1908 'Tourist Guide'

YOU might want to do a comparison, a sort of then-and-now table. Or for curiosity's sake, you could find information that would recreate in your mind the Manila of your grandparents.

Kemlein, on the other hand, might have been commissioned to write this handbook and therefore felt compelled to write all sorts of nice positive observations. We'll never know, will we? But it does feel good to know that (at least for our guide) Manila was considered "the most beautiful and interesting city on the shores of the China Sea, it is cosmopolitan and full of historic interest."

Customs were still tinged with Spanish influence "but the dominant spirit was American." In 10 years, developments had taken place that were "unprecedented." For one, our guide tells us that from being one of the most unsanitary cities in the Far East, Manila had become "the most sanitary." (Hey, considering the garbage pile-up, presumably we've retrogressed to being one of the most unsanitary again. How's that for progress?)

I have to tell you that Kemlein noted that there was no class distinction in Manila. Now you know and I know that wasn't true then and isn't true now. The Army and Navy Club is supposed to have had a sign that read "No Dogs or Filipinos Allowed." On the other hand, public officials hadn't gotten into the nasty habit of traveling with police escorts and sirens to announce their unwanted presence on the streets and show that there is a difference between them and us.

The old trams were replaced by "a thoroughly equipped up-to-date electric street car system." There was a splendid sewerage and the water works were completed. "Beautiful parks and boulevards were laid out and by enormous outlays of money the harbor was made the best in this part of the world." Steel docks were put in place. "Around the walls and the edge of the bay was a fashionable drive lined with palm trees where the well-to-do inhabitants walk, drive and meet their friends. The river presents a scene of great animation, being crowded with native craft, inter-

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



spered with vessels of foreign built."

Hundreds of miles of railroad were constructed "opening up vast areas of productive sections to encourage investment." Americans came to seek their fortunes as planters, lumbermen, traders, fishermen, merchants and "pearlers" throughout the islands. In Mindanao, there were about 100 American plantations of coconuts, hemp, cacao and rubber.

Four or five times a year, a company of players en route to Australia or the China coast would perform probably at the Manila Grand Opera House then located at 313 Calle Cervantes. And every year an opera company from Italy would perform for four or five months also at the Opera House, supported we are told by "subscriptions among the Americans, Spanish and Filipinos." (How this was possible I do not know. "Il Trovatore" managed a two-night engagement and heaven knows how many of those tickets were subsidized. As for "Miss Saigon," the amount of coercion needed for companies to support performances was probably unprecedented too. Who knows? Maybe Filipinos really enjoyed opera at the turn of the century.)

Other theaters included Zorrilla on the corner of San Pedro and Bilibid, Libertad also on Calle Bilibid, Rizal and Orpheum Theaters both on Azcarraga. Tondo had a number of small show houses with programs known as "cinematografos" where there was vaudeville numbers in Spanish interspersed with exhibitions of moving pictures. There was even a vaudeville house where the performers were mainly Australian but Kemlein forgot to mention where this was located.

Presumably the guide book was meant for Americans because it is emphasized that English was spoken everywhere although "in and around Manila the language was Tagalog but the commercial language was still Spanish." And oh, yes, the Filipinos were "a civilized people. They have their churches, schools, charities, dramatic and musical organizations, and now, under American rule, their popular assembly of lawmakers." (I can think of quite a lot of things to say about our popular assembly of lawmakers but I won't. My mother use to say that if one had nothing nice to say, one ought to keep quiet.)

Anyway many of these "civilized" Filipinos belonged to the elite who were educated in European and American universities and were men of wealth. "Few were engaged in commercial pursuits. They were either farmers or professionals."

The most irritating personality for our guide was the *cochero* (coachman or hack driver). The foreigner was sure to "fall afoul of him" due to his annoying habit of getting the most money for the least service. However, his graft was limited to violating vehicle regulation laws found on another page of the guide. One I presume could substitute jeepney, bus, taxi and tricycle driver for *cochero* these days when graft has certainly grown more sophisticated.

There were three classes of public vehicles: the *carrajes* (carriages) or *victorias* drawn by two ponies; *quilez*, a one-horse vehicle of the gurney-coach order that seated four persons when crowded; and the *carromata* which was drawn by one pony and seated two passengers.

Numerous stables were run by Americans, mostly renting out roll-top *calesin* drawn by one horse, with the driver seated behind. There were roll-top and straight-top *carromatas* also drawn by a single animal but having the driver in front. The vehicle carried two persons comfortably and the best were fitted with rubber tires. For this you had to pay 75 cents, a much higher fare than the .50 cents for those without rubber tires.

Of women and breasts

HAVE you ever seen a woman with only one breast? Well, I haven't seen one, but my best friend Marge has. In fact, she sees her every day because Marge has only one breast.

At 32, my best friend lost her right breast to cancer. She was diagnosed with a stage 2B breast cancer two and a half years ago. She is a seemingly healthy and active young woman in the prime of her life battling the disease, but we, her family and friends, still don't know if she will win the war or not.

It all started in June 1999 when she felt a lump in her right breast. It was an ordinary Sunday afternoon. She was lying in bed, watching her favorite show. She accidentally felt something in her breast, a round mass of flesh and it would not go away. Scared of doctors, she waited until September to have her biopsy (an operation where the doctor takes a sample tissue and examines it). It took her that long to muster enough courage to go through the whole ordeal.

After a week, her doctor dropped the news that would change her life forever. The sample tissue was cancerous and she had to do a radical mastectomy (complete removal of the breast and some lymph nodes) as soon as possible.

She cried, of course, but otherwise she took it calmly. She arranged her vacation leave discreetly, turned over her job to her assistant and scheduled her operation single handedly. She never asked for our help. She was ready to face her biggest battle.

The operation was successful but that was only phase one of the treatment. She still had to undergo six months of chemotherapy to completely eradicate the cancer cells.

I would silently watch her go to the battlefield that was the hospital and fight her enemy that was breast cancer. I was silent because I just didn't know what to say. I tried to help by providing her with various information about the enemy through the books and articles I read. You've got to know the enemy to be able to conquer it. Until then, mastectomy, oncologist, chemotherapy, radiation and mammogram were just words from the dictionary, but they soon became a part of our daily conversations. The words had acquired a face.

I was there when she started to lose her hair. I saw how she would hide the many strands falling on the floor, on her desk and on her shoulders. She would pick them up nervously but carefully so as not to attract attention from her officemates and other friends. She had to wear a wig after the second chemotherapy session and only then did I realize that wigs were expensive and so uncomfortable to use. They were itchy and she perspired a lot because of the heat on her scalp.

People in her office didn't know about her situation. She didn't want to attract undue attention and get false sympathy.

She continued to go to her office even during her chemotherapy sessions. She would be admitted at the hospital on a Friday night and would be discharged on a Sunday afternoon. While the rest of her officemates rested or enjoyed themselves on a weekend, my friend was going through hell. And then she would report for work the next Monday, as if nothing happened.

Two months after her sixth chemotherapy session, her hair started to grow. Thank God for Rosanna Roces and Ai-Ai de las Alas who made the short hair fashionable for women, Marge fitted right in!

Well, that was two and a half years ago. Now we keep praying that the cancer cells will not come back for at least the next two and a half years. If she'll be clean (meaning healthy) for five years then we can all relax already. Meanwhile, we continue to keep our fingers crossed.

When I look at my breast in the mirror, I can't help but think of Marge. Some would say that breasts are just but ordinary body parts. You lose a finger and you still can live normally. But when a woman loses a breast, can she still live normally?

Sometimes, Marge calls herself a mutant. I don't know what to say because, given the same situation, I would feel the same way, too.

But what makes a woman a complete person? Is it the presence of her two breasts, two hands, two feet, two eyes, a nose, a mouth, etc.? Does the absence of one body part make her less of a person? Are we as women just the sum of our body parts?

I have searched my heart for an answer because I know that only the heart can answer such difficult questions. And my heart, with its passionate belief in people, tells me that a woman is made up of body parts—arms, legs, hands, feet—but she is not entirely just body parts. She's a soul enclosed in those body parts. A soul whose capacity to give and receive love is so great I can't even find words to describe it.

Losing a breast is sad especially for women like us—for a woman like Marge. But one has to move on and face another day ahead, and if one finds a man (or a partner) who'll accept her whether she has two breasts or just one that is an occasion for celebration because that man sees the person in her. He sees beyond body parts, and only a man who looks through the eyes of love is capable of doing that.

I believe that what we should watch out for is losing the heart. When one's heart has turned cold and dead or when one has lost the capacity to give and receive love, that is the most tragic event in any person's life.

I know a lot of people walking around without hearts in their chests. My friend Marge has only one breast now but she still has her heart and it still believes in love!

Lisa Simpson, 29, works in a private firm along Ayala Avenue in Makati.

THEY SAID

Senate puppeteer

"Senator Angara acts in mysterious ways. He works behind the scenes, but never in front. He just plays the puppeteer."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo, accusing Sen. Edgardo Angara of being behind the exposé of Sen. Panfilo Lacson

Best ad

"The best advertising is service..."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on cutting the advertising budgets of all government agencies

Ready

"We are in a state of absolute readiness."

—Touyali Ghiasi on offensives against the Taliban

Harmful advisories

"The practice of issuing travel advisories is discriminatory to developing countries like the Philippines."

—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, protesting the latest travel advisory released by the United States

Last is first

"It's important that he was the last one, because people remember the last one who spoke, they will remember Osama bin Laden."

—Middle East consultant in London Mustafa Alani on Osama bin Laden's public appearance where he spoke after two members of Al-Qaida

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How serious is Senate about agrarian reform?

THE SENATE opened the first session of the 12th Congress in July 2001. More than three months have passed but up to this day no chair has been named for the committee on agrarian reform.

When the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) was enacted in 1988, it was regarded as an important mechanism to promote social justice and people empowerment in the rural areas. However, the date originally set for its completion in

1998 has been postponed for another 10 years. The Department of Agrarian Reform has cited a variety of reasons for the delay.

In the past two years, the budget for land acquisition and distribution has been slashed in the Senate. Slowly, this institution is giving the impression that it does not consider agrarian reform as an important factor for development and social equality. Today, its failure to name a chair for the committee on agrarian



reform raises more doubts and questions.

Our small farmers would like to know, "Can we count on you, honorable senators?"—CRISTINA AGUILAR, policy advocacy officer, *Kaisahan tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan*, 43 Masikap St., Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City

Lucky SSS employees and unhappy retirees

IN HIS speech at the organizational meeting of the United Social Security System Members Inc. (USSSMI) at the Manila Hotel on Oct. 10, 2001, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he had filed Senate Bill No. 1566 raising the minimum of the monthly Social Security System (SSS) pension to P3,000 and raising the monthly pension annually by P500 per month until the minimum monthly pension will have reached P5,000 a month.

Earlier, Biliran Rep. Gerry Espina and former Sen. Raul Roco filed House Bill No. 842 and Senate Bill No. 983, respectively, increasing the SSS monthly pension to P6,000. These two bills are better than the Pimentel bill.

I think the SSS retirees appreciate what our lawmakers have done. But I believe that the former will appreciate it even more if a law is enacted increasing the current SSS pension to a living monthly annuity.

In her talk before the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) last Sept. 30, SSS president Corazon C. Santos-de la Paz was non-committal with regard to a hike in pensions this year.

My sources say that every SSS employee receives P30,000 as Christmas bonus, apart from the 13th month pay. SSS employees are fortunate to enjoy a windfall while SSS retirees who contributed to the fund endure financial difficulties because of the small pensions they receive.

An SSS employee has no vested right to such a big Christmas bonus. I suggest that the SSS pare the amount down to P10,000 and distribute the balance to augment the 13th month pension of SSS retirees. Then the latter will have a merry Christmas.—FACUNDO S. TALLO, *Angela Village, Talon, Las Piñas City*

How can people be truly happy these days?

CHRISTMAS is in the air, but what good are celebrations without love?

Whether it's Christmas, a birthday or any other occasion, it is love, oneness or the feeling of wanting to share which lightens the occasion and makes it memorable.

But how can we enjoy the feasting and merrymaking when we know there are many others who have been deprived of the opportunity to be happy? How can we ignore the fact that those who have been deprived are now reminding us by their mere presence of the injustices we committed against them?

It's clear we are not free to enjoy and be happy for as long as we don't right the wrongs we committed against them. For if we even try to be happy, the effort will be shallow and meaningless unless we make peace with our neighbor.

The world is in shambles and without peace because we have pampered ourselves to the point of ignoring our neighbor's presence. We have deluded ourselves into the false belief that loving ourselves first will enable us to love others. But what happened is that we liked the self-pampering so much and overdid it, thus our overindulgence.

What will we do now that we know how the depressing world conditions have been created? Shall we continue escaping reality by overindulging ourselves to numbness? Or will we make an honest effort to change our ways?—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO, *Las Piñas City*

The other terrorism

IT was in 1985 when Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale" was first published. It is set in the not too distant future when the Christian Right takes over the United States and the men totally control women's lives, assigning specific roles to women as wives, mothers—even whores.

It seemed improbable then that anyone could set up a political system so thorough in its control of women, yet within a few years, a group of young fanatical Muslims would set up a state that was to be more extreme in its anti-women policies than what Atwood described in her novel. We're talking of the Taliban regime, which took over Afghanistan in 1996 and has since waged a total war against women as it attempts to put up an Islamic state based on their narrow religious fundamentalism.

Under the Taliban, women cannot leave the house unaccompanied by a male relative. They cannot wear high heels—men are not supposed to hear women's footsteps. No brightly colored clothes either, or cosmetics; women using nail varnish have had their fingers amputated.

The Taliban have not just sequestered women but have made them invisible. Women have to use the all-enveloping burkha, which covers the body from head to foot with only a narrow lace grill in front of the eyes. But it seems the burkha is not enough for the Taliban—the windows of homes have to be painted over as well, to ensure that male passers-by do not see the women inside.

The harsh rules are enforced by the staff of the Ministry for the Elimination of Vice and the Promotion of Virtue, who roam the streets to make sure the Taliban's rules are enforced. A woman walking down the street with an exposed ankle, for example, can be seized and beaten by these religious police.

These misogynist or anti-women attitudes are certainly not limited to fundamentalist Islam. The world's greatest religions have generally distrusted women, seeing them as temptresses, distracting men from godly pursuits. Fundamentalists like the Taliban have merely brought new heights (or depths) to this misogyny, the distrust of women amplified into a collective paranoia. The Taliban, for example, don't even trust little girls, prescribing a segregation of sexes from age seven and up.

Moralists try to impose total control on women by keeping them within the home. Thus in Afghanistan, girls have been pulled out of schools and women professionals forbidden to work. The results have been disastrous: women have had to turn to support their families by begging in the streets, properly shrouded, of course. Meanwhile, Afghans have been deprived of many services because of the ban on women working. Recently a male dentist was flogged for treating women patients (it did not matter that there were no female dentists around to serve the women). Yes, the women patients were flogged as well.

I write about all this because the propaganda around "Operation Enduring Freedom," launched by the United States and its allies, tries to project its offensives in Afghanistan as a war to liberate the Afghans, including the women, from the Taliban. Suddenly, the plight of Afghan women has made it to CNN and other international newscasts. A few weeks back, CNN aired "Beneath the Veil," showing the terrible effects of the Taliban's anti-women policies, including women beggars in the streets with their emaciated children as well as executions in a football stadium.

But war will not liberate Afghan women. In fact, Afghanistan should have taught us that war only propagates the institutions that have been so oppressive to women. In a recent article in an American newsweekly, "In These Times," Indian writer Arundhati Roy, author of "The God of Small Things," reminds us that today's Taliban rulers passed their childhood in a war-torn Afghanistan, a time when the Soviet Union and the United States poured in \$20 billion worth of munitions that fueled civil war. These young boys, Roy writes, "had guns for toys, never knew the security and comfort of family life, never experienced the company of women. Now as adults and rulers, they beat, stone, rape and brutalize women; they don't seem to know what else to do with them."

A group called the Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) has been vocal in opposing "Enduring Freedom." It was RAWA that provided CNN with footage about Afghan women, taken with secret cameras. Besides helping to document the Taliban's atrocities, RAWA's members have risked their lives organizing secret schools for girls and providing medical services to Afghans in need.

Despite RAWA's work, their voices are rarely heard (the CNN documentary was the first and last time I heard about them on television). RAWA opposes the Northern Alliance and "Operation Enduring Freedom," warning that the military offensives will bring only more devastation to Afghanistan and that the Northern Alliance is no alternative to the Taliban. RAWA points out that the Northern Alliance is composed of warlords who were in power from 1991 to 1996 and have a record of human rights violations—including restrictions on women—that come close to that of the Taliban.

In a symposium a few years ago, Atwood explained to her audience that while "The Handmaid's Tale" was set in the future, all the anti-women policies and practices she described had all been used at one time or another in some parts of the world. "The Handmaid's Tale" reminds us that in too many societies, and too often in history, women have suffered whenever the self-righteous combine religion and politics. The religious conservatives' moralism, with its invocations of a punishing, vindictive and patriarchal god, brings nothing but enduring terror.

Details about the situation of Afghan women can be found on www.rawa.org.

Comments on today's column can be sent to miguel@pinoykasi.net.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



Maligning the Maranao

WE condemn the repulsive article written by Ramon Tulfo, entitled "The mindless Maranaos," in the Oct. 11 issue of the INQUIRER.

In that short piece, Tulfo maligned and gravely insulted us Maranaos. Done with an utter lack of sensitivity, the article was an outright racial slur, and reflected the brand of journalism that Tulfo is notoriously known to espouse: intrigues, lies and deceit.

We quote Tulfo's line: "Kung sino pa yung pinakaduwag na tribu ng Muslim sa Pilipinas yun pa ang nagtapang-tapangan!" (The most cowardly tribe of the Muslims in the Philippines is pretending to be brave!)

In his article Tulfo willfully and unabashedly called the Maranaos "dumb" and cowardly. A "fearless view" indeed, arrived at through arrogance, and presumably, ignorance of the price one has to pay if one tramples upon a Maranao's "maratabat" (pride). In the article, Tulfo trampled upon the collective "maratabat" of the Maranaos.

He even tried to pull a cheap trick by comparing the Maranaos unfavorably with other Moro tribes, namely the Tausogs, Maguindanaos and Yakans. Indeed, Tulfo has at-

tempted to divide the Moro people just to fill a precious few inches of column space—praising other Muslim tribes while lambasting other Muslim countries' position on the World Trade Center and Pentagon disasters, and even going so far as to call the Palestinian people "monkeys."

In the present global situation where the atmosphere is charged with religious tension, when everyone including the Muslims of the world is trying to prevent religious conflict, Tulfo found it enjoyable to play with fire over a powder keg.

We are calling on all Maranaos to declare Tulfo persona non grata. We cannot let this thing pass. Tulfo has insulted us many times and, by the nature of the beast, he will continue to do it. We are passing this sentiment on to our Muslim brothers for them to do the same.—COUNCIL OF ELDERS, Islamic Center, San Miguel, Manila

WE apologize for the failure of the editor who read Ramon Tulfo's column published on Oct. 11, 2001 to edit the passages about the Maranaos and Muslims as they vio-

late our editorial policies.

The Inquirer's Canons of Taste for Journalists, which is part of the paper's Manual of Editorial Policies, says (Section XII, Par. 1.5.2.): "Avoid language that perpetuates racial stereotypes or is offensive to certain races. Examples: street Arab, Jap or Nip, Polack, Spick."

While the Maranaos are an ethnic group and, strictly speaking, are not a race, the above-mentioned provision of the Canons of Taste can be deemed to apply to the first three paragraphs of Tulfo's column by analogy.

One of the guidelines for columnists set forth in the Inquirer Manual of Editorial Policies is this: (Section VIII, 1.2.) "Delicate topics, particularly those dealing with religion, race and minority groups, should be handled with great prudence and care. The columnists should always be aware of the dangers of bigotry. In no case should they criticize or ridicule another person on the basis of his or her religious beliefs, race, sexual preferences, etc."

We apologize for the hurt that Tulfo's column might have caused the Maranaos and the Muslims.—The editor.

Reorganization of Zambo Sur gov't explained

THE NEWS article last Oct. 19, entitled "1,000 to lose jobs in Zambo Sur" and written by Hernan P. dela Cruz, carried highly partisan overtones.

Reorganizing my province's manpower structure is an offshoot, plain and simple, of the reduction of its revenues due to the creation of the province of Zamboanga Sibugay, resulting in 40 percent of the mother province's revenues going to the new province. In effect, the province's Internal Revenue Allocation (IRA) of P44 million was reduced to P27 million. With reduced revenues, the province can no longer sustain payment of salaries of its 1,764 employees amounting to P31 million per month.

Even before Sibugay's separation and my assumption on July 1, 2001 as the new governor of Zamboanga del Sur, the mother province under my predecessors' administration was already overstaffed by 838 employees. My predecessors virtually made the provincial capitol an employment agency where 82 percent of its IRA went to salaries and wages of the bloated provincial bureaucracy.

Section 325 of the Local Government Code of 1991 only allows a

maximum amount equivalent to 45 percent of the province's financial resources for salaries. Following this legally allowable allocation for salaries, with the present P27 million monthly IRA of my province, salaries should only amount to P13 million. That is enough to pay the salaries of only 727 employees.

My predecessors actually sacrificed the provision of basic services in terms of improved infrastructure, health/medical care and other social services, depriving 836,127 people of Zamboanga del Sur who are mostly poor in favor of hiring more capitol employees. Instead of the legal 20 percent allocation for development projects (infrastructure/medical services/ other social services), 30 percent for maintenance and other operating expenses and 5 percent reserves for calamity, the allocation went as low as 6.5 percent, 9.8 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively. This has been going on for the last nine years.

A black Christmas for the 1,000 employees? How about the welfare of the 836,127 people of Zamboanga del Sur? Right now our six provincial hospitals cannot provide needed medicines and even feed its in-patients.

Almost all provincial roads (96.5 percent or 437.04 out of 452.74 kilometers) are dilapidated, and impassable during rainy days, virtually isolating several barangays from the rest of civilization.

With the support of the great majority of my provincemates and my political leaders, I vowed to make a difference. Thus, this reorganization which left only 727 qualified and competent capitol workers.

The reorganization is a collective decision of both the governor and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. The Sangguniang Panlalawigan passed SP Resolution Nos. 2K1-038 and 2K1-127 approving the reorganization and adopting the new staffing pattern of the province.

Budget Secretary Emilia T. Boncodin assured the payment of separation benefits to those who would be laid off in the process. The Civil Service Commission also supported this move. Provisions of RA 6656, the government reorganization law, and other applicable laws were religiously followed in the reorganization process.—AURORA ENERIO-CERILLES, provincial governor, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr. 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ARMORED RECOVERY VEHICLE (ARV)**, with an approved budget of **Sixty-Five Million One Hundred Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 65,120,000.00)** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from suppliers who are the manufacturers themselves of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **October 30, 2001** until **November 15, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 15, 2001 at 2:00 PM (local time)** at **Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**. Prospective bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on **December 6, 2001 at 9:00 AM (local time)** after which the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow. Venue is at **Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expense or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) LTGEN GREGORIO M CAMILING JR AFP
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Oct. 29 & 30, 2001)



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **CONSTRUCTION AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) FAST CRAFT UTILITY (FCU)** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **One Hundred Forty Four Million Pesos (Php 144,000,000.00)** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from entities who are themselves the shipbuilders/manufacturers of the FCU and can provide certification that the FCU being offered is used by the Armed Forces of the proponent's country of origin or being used by the Armed Forces of at least two countries shall be entertained. Said FCU should be a proven hull design certified by Ship Classification Society Class + 100 A1.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **October 30, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php 15,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of bid documents.

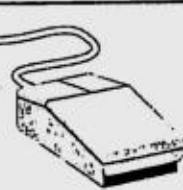
A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 14, 2001 at 2:00 PM at Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**. Prospective bidders may submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes shall be on **December 7, 2001 at 9:00 AM (local time)** after which the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow. Venue is at **Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**.

The AFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expense or loss that may be incurred by the Bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) LTGEN GREGORIO M CAMILING JR AFP
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(PDI - Oct. 29 & 30, 2001)



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WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR



A TALIBAN fighter holding a rocket-launcher stands guard during the visit of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Ludd Lubbers at the Chaman border crossing, 130 km northwest of Quetta, Oct. 28. REUTERS

Anthrax found at justice dep't

WASHINGTON—Anthrax has been discovered at an off-site facility that handles mail for the US Department of Justice, including the office of Attorney General John Ashcroft who heads the hunt for those responsible for mailings of the potentially fatal bacteria.

It was the latest contamination found in Washington after traces of the germ warfare agent turned up in similar off-site mail facilities that serve the White House, State Department, Supreme Court and CIA.

Anthrax contamination has also been found in Florida, New York and New Jersey, killing three people, hospitalizing several others and leading to treatment of thousands of people who may have come in contact with the bacteria since the Sept. 11 air attacks on the United States.

"Today, the Department of Justice was informed by the FBI Hazmat Unit at Quantico that final test results show the Department's off-site mail facility in Landover, Maryland, tested positive for anthrax," the statement issued on Sunday said.

"Areas which specifically handle mail for the Main Justice Building, including the Attorney General's office and other leadership offices, were among those that tested positive," the statement added.

It said no mail had been received at the Justice Department from the Landover facility for several days.

The FBI is among law enforcement agencies that report to Ashcroft who has said investigators are looking at both domestic and foreign sources in its search for those behind the bioterrorism attack.

The Bush administration has not ruled out the anthrax is linked to Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, whom it blames for last month's air assaults that killed about 5,000 people. But officials say they have no evidence the mail attacks are the work of the man against whom the United States has launched bombing raids in Afghanistan. REUTERS

Japan enacts bill to back up US action

TOKYO—Japan on Monday enacted a controversial bill to allow its military to go abroad to back up US-led strikes in Afghanistan, paving the way for a possible first overseas dispatch of sophisticated Aegis destroyers.

The legislation, which clarifies the role Japan's military could play in the US actions without violating the nation's war-renouncing Constitution, cleared Parliament's Upper House. It was approved by the more powerful lower chamber earlier this month.

The previous law had barred Japan from engaging in any type of military action unless it was threatened or attacked directly.

Under the new law, effective for two years and extendable for two more, Japan could dispatch military forces and vessels to provide rearward logistical support, such as medical services and the provision of supplies, as well as humanitarian aid for refugees.

The law, which requires the government to obtain parliamentary approval within 20 days after the dispatch of troops, bans transportation on land of arms and ammunition.

The enactment prompted Japanese government officials to discuss and draw up a "basic program" to send troops as well as military warships and aircraft overseas.

"We now have completed the system in which we can cooperate with the United States and other countries," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters after the enactment. REUTERS

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US asks Taiwan to spy on China's subs

TAIPEI—The United States has asked Taiwan to help it spy on China's large submarine fleet, a report yesterday said.

Taipei, however, is reluctant to commit itself to any pact at the moment "due to a lack of agreement in shouldering the costs which could run up to \$2.9 billion," the United Daily News said.

The US Navy has deployed monitoring equipment on the seabed in waters around Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia but not around Taiwan, the report said.

The equipment, originally tasked to spy on the former Soviet Navy during the Cold War, was part of the US joint anti-submarine network, which also comprised satellites, long-range submarine-hunting aircraft, surface warships and submarines, it said.

An unnamed naval officer was quoted by the paper as saying the United States has recommended that further monitoring equipment be laid in waters north and south of the island to expand the US Navy's existing anti-submarine network.

It said the network could help gather information regarding Chinese submarines operating in the Pacific.

Analysts have warned that should a war break out in the Taiwan Straits, Beijing could use its dozens of submarines to impose a blockade on the island after carrying out intensive missile attacks on Taiwan's military command bunkers. AFP

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Per DTL-NCR Permit No. 3460, Series of 2001

Japan recalls products after mad cow scare

TOKYO—Japanese manufacturers have recalled hundreds of medical and cosmetic products after the health ministry requested a voluntary recall of products posing a risk of transmitting mad cow disease, according to an industry webpage.

As of Friday, 397 substances, used in more than 1,000 products, have been recalled, according to the medical products homepage of the Organization for Pharmaceutical Safety and Research.

Cosmetic products made from cow placenta extracts and other substances using beef by-products were targeted as potentially dangerous by the government on Oct. 5 amid the country's mad cow scare.

Because some substances—such as those used in skin-whitening facial creams—are used in more than 70 different products, media reports said the recalled products numbered more than 1,500, and affect some 160 companies.

A ministry survey committee was to discuss the recall Monday afternoon, a spokesperson said.

The health ministry implemented a Japan-wide inspection system for cows slaughtered on Oct. 18 after the first cow in Japan was confirmed to have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in September.

On the same day the ministry said a teenage girl had symptoms which raised fears she might be Japan's first victim of the fatal new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), which is believed to be caused by consuming BSE-infected beef.

The condition has killed about 100 people in Britain since the mid-1980s.

Ministry officials said it would take another three months before they could be sure if the patient had vCJD or not.

Until Sunday, 17,286 cows had tested negative and none positive for BSE, a ministry spokesperson said. **AFP**

Iran's severe drought may become harsher—UN

IDMAMAD—As a scorching wind blew dust against her mudbrick farmhouse, Mahnaz Bravi saw no end to her suffering.

"Drought is like death. Now I have a field, which gives me nothing at all," lamented Bravi, raising a dark blue cloak over part of her face as she stood in the arched doorway to her home.

Years of little rain have turned her plot of wheat bone dry and killed off dozens of chickens, several sheep, a cow and a bull; all she has left are a tomato patch, a scrawny calf, two mangy sheep and a goat.

Bravi, a widow who lives with her six daughters in Idmamad village in eastern Sistan-Baluchistan province, survives on public handouts as she and millions of Iranians grapple with their worst drought in 30 years.

The drought has also hit Afghanistan and Iran's other Central Asian neighbors. Some of the trickle of Afghan refugees sneaking into Iran said they were fleeing drought and famine as much as the US war on the Taliban.

UN officials say the effects of Iran's drought are only getting worse.

They fear it is "more fundamental and far reaching than others before it," that a natural, recurring phenomenon has been exacerbated by water wastage, overgrazing, and an urban bias in the allocation of water.

In June, Qolam-Reza Manuchehri, Iran's deputy energy minister charged with water-related issues, warned that water scarcity had "reached a critical state" and called for tough economizing.

Water has been rationed in dozens of Iranian cities in the last few months.

According to official estimates, last year's drought alone cost Iran some \$3.5 billion.

Last year, an estimated 2.8 million tons of wheat, 280,000 tons of barley and 800,000 head of livestock were lost, according to a report on Iran prepared by the United Nations Development Program and cleared by Tehran.

In the year 2000, Iran imported seven million tons of wheat, becoming the world's largest importer of the commodity, the report said.

In the central region around Mehriz, where

50,000 people depend on orchards for a living, 80 percent of pistachio trees have died, the report added.

Trees that used to provide shade for animals are also gone. Bravi pointed to a barren dusty landscape where only a couple of trees still stood, with several dried carcasses piled up near her farmhouse waiting to be hauled away.

Even though severe drought hit 12 of Iran's 28 provinces in 2001 compared to 25 last year, its cumulative effect in some areas was now especially harsh, the UN report said.

Relief workers speak of Iranian school children having to be bused from one town to another in hard-hit Sistan-Baluchistan province just to use the toilets while farmers were now falling ill for lack of proper food.

Sheikhs have led prayers for rain in Shiraz while residents reportedly rioted in Isfahan in early July over the lack of water.

Relief workers said eddies of dust seen hovering over the dry bed of Lake Hamoun, a short drive from Idmamad, have been piling up around farmhouses abandoned by farmers who can no longer cope.

Francesco Bastagli, UNDP's resident representative in Iran, warned of a permanent exodus. "The longer the dry spell lasts, more people move out. Once they make the move, they don't go back," Bastagli said.

Residents recalled that Lake Hamoun used to offer abundant catches for fishermen, serve as a watering hole for farm animals and provide a sanctuary for birds like ducks, flamingos, and pelicans.

"When the lake was full of water, I saw cows, sheep, goats and camels come to walk (and drink) on the lake shore," said Ibrahim Heraty Sadegh, who was born in nearby Zabol and is now a school teacher in Zahedan.

The lake was a good place to hunt birds, swim, picnic and water ski, he added.

But it is now dry. In the last three years, the Taliban militia ruling neighboring Afghanistan dammed the Hirmand River, cutting off a major flow to the lake and helping seal its fate, UN officials and area residents said. **AFP**

8 more bodies recovered from Kursk wreckage

MOSCOW—Eight more bodies of crewmen were recovered Sunday from the wreckage of the submarine Kursk, bringing the total number to 40, the news agency Interfax reported, citing Russian naval sources.

The majority of the bodies have been found in the nuclear vessel's fifth compartment.

All 118 crewmen perished when the Kursk, Russia's most modern nuclear submarine, sank in mysterious circumstances on Aug. 12, 2000, in the Barents Sea. Only 12 bodies were able to be recovered by divers in November of the same year.

Salvage workers have also successfully removed the first two Granit cruise missiles from the Kursk, a Northern Fleet official said on Monday.

"The operation followed normal procedure, just as it would with any other submarine," the Navy official said under condition of anonymity.

The first two of the 22 missiles onboard the Kursk were removed overnight by special cranes, the navy source said.

The official said it was still unclear how long the entire procedure would last because Navy personnel were following extremely stringent safety procedures.

Removal of the Granit rockets is viewed as one of the most dangerous steps in the entire salvage operation, with some Navy experts expressing concern that a damaged missile could explode—or even be accidentally launched—while being detached from the craft.

Russian officials are carrying out an investigation to uncover the reasons behind the sinking of the Kursk. **AFP**



A WOMAN lights a candle in the Church of the Nativity during a gathering Oct. 28 to pray for those killed during the Israeli occupation of Palestinian towns in the West Bank. Former US senator George Mitchell said the numbers of people killed in the latest escalation of Israeli-Palestinian violence were "shockingly high" and urged the international community to take urgent steps to persuade the two sides to return to peace talks. **REUTERS**

35 people still missing from Swiss tunnel blaze

AIROLO, Switzerland—The number of people missing after Switzerland's worst tunnel disaster fell to 35 on Sunday as residents of an alpine village near the scene mourned the 11 confirmed dead.

Some 400 people, nearly a quarter of the population of Airolo in the Italian-speaking Swiss canton (state) of Ticino, packed the Roman Catholic church to hear the bishop of Lugano, Giuseppe Torti, call for "unity in the face of pain."

Airolo lies at the southern end of the 17-km Gotthard tunnel through the Alps where two trucks collided on Wednesday, sparking an inferno, which quickly consumed 10 other vehicles—five trucks and five cars.

Police say witnesses reported seeing people escaping from the vehicles in the so-called "red zone" around the accident site and they think the death toll will not rise significantly.

Two hundred people were initially

listed as missing but they have steadily been accounted for and police think the number will drop further.

The bodies of 10 of the victims have been recovered, while one of the truck drivers from the crash is also listed among the casualties but his body has not yet been retrieved.

Engineers completed work on Saturday to shore up the roof of the tunnel, parts of which collapsed in the blaze that reached temperatures of

more than 1,000 degrees Celsius.

Forensic experts are set to start inspecting the vehicles in the red zone on Monday to see if there are any further victims whose bodies have been carbonized by the intense heat.

Police say the initial number of missing was hugely inflated because anxious callers rang more than one emergency service and then failed to cancel the alarm when the person turned up. **Reuters**

Worshippers hid under pews to dodge slugs

BEHAWALPUR, Pakistan—Gunmen with "bags of guns and bullets" stormed into a Christian church in Pakistan and sprayed the congregation with gunfire, killing the minister and 15 others, police and survivors said.

The attack Sunday—the bloodiest in memory against the country's small Christian community—took place during a Protestant service held at St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church in the center of Behawalpur, a city in Pakistan's southern Punjab province.

It was unclear whether the attack was related to recent unrest over US-led air strikes on Afghanistan.

During the church shooting, survivors said worshippers tried to flee or hide under pews to escape an indiscriminate hail of automatic weapons fire that left the gray stone building pocked with bullet holes.

"Some of them lay down. Some begged for mercy. They didn't listen," said Ali Shah, a man in his early 20s who was in the front pew when the four masked gunmen burst in. He was one of five people being treated for bullet wounds at the city hospital Sunday afternoon.

The Rev. Rocus Patras, parish priest at St. Dominic's, said at the time of the shooting, a Protestant congregation that lacks its own building was worshipping at the Catholic church as it has for 30 years.

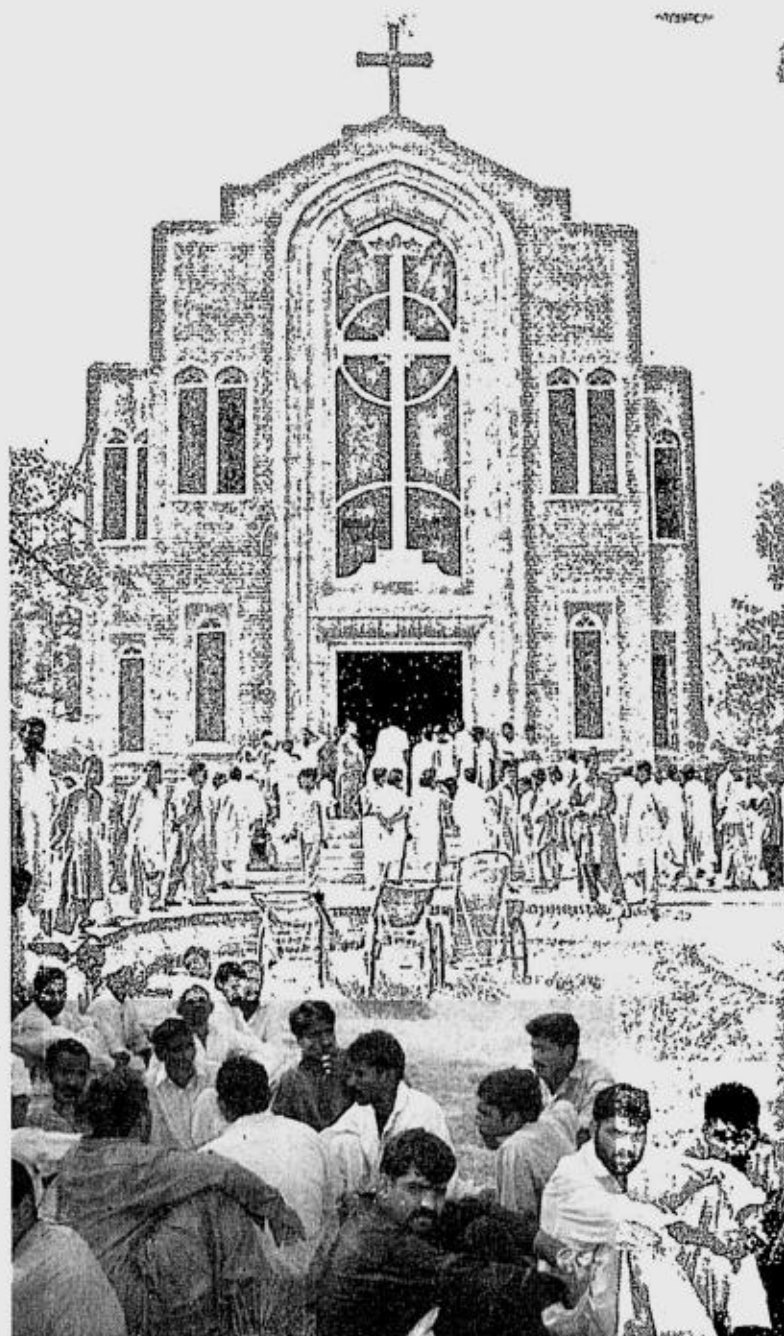
There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but intelligence officials said members of a banned Islamic group were under suspicion. US attacks on neighboring Afghanistan have enraged many Pakistani Muslims.

"Whenever something happens with America, they attack Christian churches," Patras said.

Authorities in Pakistan's four provinces ordered increased security at Christian churches. In Islamabad, where police commandos with automatic weapons guarded church gates Sunday afternoon, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf condemned the loss of "16 innocent and precious lives."

"The method used and the inhuman tactics employed clearly indicate involvement of trained terrorists of organizations bent on creating discord and disharmony in Pakistan," Musharraf said in a written statement.

Dr. Umar Farooq, an emergency-room physician at the Civil Hospital in Behawalpur, said four of the dead were children under 12, four were women and eight were men. Police said one of the dead was Father Emmanuel, the minister conducting the morning services. They did not know his last name. **AP**



RELATIVES gather in front of a church in Bahawalpur where masked gunmen shot dead 16 Christians on Oct. 28. Christians have long expressed fears they could become targets if unrest broke out in Muslim Pakistan over opposition to the US attacks on neighboring Afghanistan. **REUTERS**

Thailand begs help from public in fight against army of beggars

BY UAMDAO NOIKORN

BANGKOK—After failing for years to chase off foreign beggars, Thailand's government is resorting to a peculiar tactic—it's begging people to stop giving.

A state publicity campaign contends that most beggars are charlatans preying on their sympathies. Officials say most beggars are able-bodied men pretending to be handicapped and work in criminal gangs.

"You can say we are at our wits' end," says the public welfare department's chief, Wallop Phloytabtim, who devised the publicity campaign. "We are begging you to stop giving."

As part of the campaign, three-minute daily television spots using secret cameras expose beggars stashing away money in secret pockets and eating McDonald's hamburgers and grilled chicken.

Billboards in downtown Bangkok and along expressways show a huge brown eye brimming with tears. A caption says: "Sympathy Brings Loss. Foreign beggars carry

\$4.44 million out of the country each year."

Officials say the government has tried to keep out a growing army of beggars who come from Cambodia, Burma and Vietnam. They have been detained, threatened and deported, but most sneak back after a few days.

Bangkok is a mecca for beggars drawn by Thailand's relative prosperity and by Thai's natural generosity, nurtured by the compassionate teachings of their Buddhist religion. Buddhists also believe that by helping the needy they earn merit for the afterlife.

Even those who disapprove of the beggars say they give money, the Thai Farmers Research Center found in a poll. The center said the physically handicapped get the most sympathy, followed by children and the elderly, the blind, women with babies and beggars with chronic injuries.

Somwang Numnuan, a 65-year-old food stall owner, is not convinced by the government campaign. "I focus on the joy of giving for the sake of giving itself," she said.

Her daughter Narumol agreed. "Those who lie to us will suffer the consequence anyway."

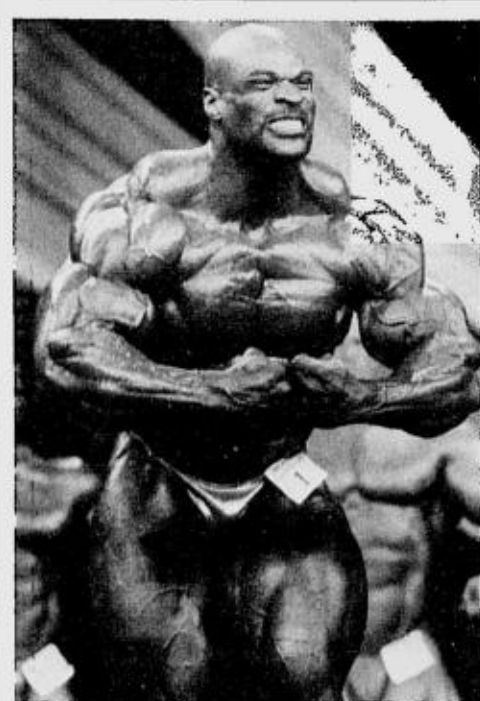
One of the beneficiaries of that view is Wee Min, who was born into a peasant family in Cambodia and lost a leg when a train ran over his leg. He came to Bangkok two years ago to beg.

Dressed in a dirty white shirt and boxer shorts, he sat on a pedestrian bridge in Pratunam, a busy market area, exposing the stub of his leg severed at the thigh. After two hours, he had collected \$2.20, a windfall compared to the 66 cents he could earn daily as a rice harvester in Cambodia.

He said he saves about nearly \$90 every month after paying house rent and other expenses.

"I wouldn't have been able to support my family if I hadn't met with the accident," said Wee Min, 30. He said he has a wife and a son in Thailand and a wife and a daughter in Cambodia to whom he sends money regularly.

The Public Welfare Department says at least 2,000 foreign beggars sneak into Thailand every year seeking to escape economic hardship. **AP**



MR. HULK GRINS

Ronnie Coleman, a bodybuilder and Texas police officer, is shown in competition as he wins his 4th consecutive IFBB Mr. Olympia contest at the competition finals held Oct. 27 at the Mandalay Bay Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas. The Mr. Olympia is the most prestigious title in professional bodybuilding. **REUTERS**

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Mayor dares critics of tough anti-drug drive to file case

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday challenged people accusing him of having links with the vigilante group Davao Death Squad to file a complaint against him.

Duterte made the dare after earning mixed reactions from the public, both ire and respect, for making repeated pronouncements against suspected drug pushers in the city.

Duterte had denied having a hand in the killings of suspected drug pushers and thieves, some of them still children.

"For those with bleeding hearts and passion for human rights, go to the police and file a case," the mayor said over his weekly TV and radio program "Gikan sa Masa, Para sa Masa."

In the same program last week, Duterte read names in a 500 person-list who he said can help the city in the campaign against the illegal drugs.

The list supposedly contained the names of drug offenders in the city.

Duterte said the names, provided by Supt. Efren Alcuizar, Regional Narcotics Office (Rano) chief, have been "validated."

The list included policemen.

Duterte said of the 500 names, 200 were either convicted, are out on bail or under probation.

"Eighty percent of those who were already convicted are into drugs again," he said.

The mayor also dared the New Peoples Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to take the law into their own hands, at their own expense.

"I am encouraging the NPA and the MILF, it's for your pleasure, kidnap them," he said about some rich kids in the city, who were also



DUTERTE

hooked into drugs and are into drag racing along the national road at the wee hours of the morning.

Duterte issued an ultimatum for drug pusher to leave the city until Nov. 30 or face the "consequences."

He said he was not affected by the criticisms hurled against him.

"I don't give a damn what they say about me," he said as he urged his critics to look at the dwindling crime rate.

Police station commanders here claimed that the crime rate has been on a standstill since the killings started.

But Duterte said peace and order was not his only concern. He said he would also want to provide rehabilitation programs for drug addicts.

The mayor also admitted using some P150,000 from his peace and order fund from July to September to buy illegal drugs from suspected pushers.

The move, he said, was meant to validate the suspects' involvement in the illegal drug trade. **Dennis Jay C. Santos and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Solon says colleagues' bad habits blew budget

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—House Minority Floor Leader Carlos Padilla on Sunday blamed the "poor work habits" of members of the House of Representatives for the controversy that surrounded the approval on second reading of the P780.8-billion 2002 budget bill.

"The problem here is the bad attitude, the poor work habits of congressmen," Padilla said. "And the Filipino people must now know how the congressmen work."

The Nueva Vizcaya lawmaker and 17 other opposition congressmen walked out of the budget deliberations Friday morning to protest the holding of the session beyond what was set in the legislative calendar.

The bill was passed on second

reading at 5:22 a.m. Friday which, according to Padilla, was more than five hours beyond the supposed last day of the regular session.

This could have been avoided if the congressmen did their work, he said.

"We agreed to set a two-week debate on the budget but on the first week, we have not accomplished anything simply because we could not convene and we often had to adjourn because of lack of quorum," he said.

He said on the second week, sessions began at 1 p.m. instead of 10 a.m. again because of the absence of a quorum.

Even the Senate had acknowledged that they had to adjourn before midnight on Thursday as pro-

vided for in the legislative calendar, Padilla said.

He likened the situation in the House to an office wherein the employer wanted his workers to work overtime on a Sunday when, for the rest of the week, either the employer or the employees were not holding office.

"Why should they force us to work beyond what was allowed when we could have finished all these things during weekdays?" Padilla asked.

"But more importantly, we walked out of the session because we did not want to take part in proceedings that were illegal," he added.

He dismissed the charges of the House majority that the minority was

"nitpicking" on technicalities, saying "(the issue) was not a matter of simple parliamentary procedure."

"There was a higher issue of constitutionality (involved) here. This had been done in the past but that was cheating, plain and simple," he said.

Padilla said lawyers of the opposition are studying their options on the plan whether or not they would contest the approval of the bill before the Supreme Court.

He expressed concern that the majority was in a hurry because they were afraid that some questionable items that were inserted in the annual budget would be uncovered. **Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Scam uncovered in Pinatubo housing plan

BAGUIO CITY—Officers of the Army's 51st Engineering Brigade, supposedly acting on a directive from President Macapagal-Arroyo, have sequestered a 30-hectare farm in Pampanga from a private developer for a Mt. Pinatubo resettlement plan, documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed.

Col. Francisco Bravo, brigade commander, wrote Magalang Mayor Pastor Guiao on Sept. 20 to advise him about their development program to fulfill "the remaining balance of 2,500 resettlement housing units for the victims of the (1991) Mt. Pinatubo eruption."

Bravo said: "President Macapagal-Arroyo has requested us to complete it in December 2001," following her State of the Nation Address before Congress on July 25.

But the lands Bravo referred to were already obligated to a privately-

financed low-cost housing program, under a joint venture agreement between a Baguio-based real estate consortium called Calgryp Philippines, and 14 farmers from Barangay San Isidro in Magalang, Pampanga.

Mario Alzona, Calgryp president, confirmed that his firm's lawyers are preparing to sue the government for "sabotaging" the project.

"The only difficulty we have right now is how to address the suit, because this is a case of (the) government stealing from the private sector. (The) government has been asking private developers to help in the mass housing program, but when we do just that, government suddenly pulls the rug from under our feet. This incident puts government in bad faith with private housing developers," Alzona told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Calgryp is a four-year-old con-

sortium of Baguio-based real estate developers and construction firms.

It has pending joint venture contracts to build the Calgryp Magalang residential estate with Felicidad, Augustin, Augusto, Abelardo and Victorino de Leon; Lamberto Manalili, Nardo, Virginia and Jesus Pineda; Julian Naguit and Jose Naguit; Felicisimo Bartolo; Felipe Pongco; and Jesus de Jesus.

The Calgryp project designed 150,000 social housing lots and 500,000 low-cost houses for the estate, and had targeted a market among Pampanga's homeless and employees of the Clark Special Economic Zone, Alzona said.

He said the group had infused about P2 million in operational and documentary expenses, "most of which go to processing the conversion of these farmlands."

All 14 farmers are recipients of

emancipation patents of land previously owned by a certain Gloria Dizon, according to a Department of Agrarian Reform certification issued by Edgardo Mariano, Magalang municipal agrarian reform officer.

Felicidad de Leon and Jesus Pineda own two parcels of land each, which Calgryp had contracted, according to the DAR records.

Alzona said Calgryp leased 16 land titles belonging to these farmers, initially at a P100 per square meter, and under a joint venture arrangement.

He said the farmers expect to earn dividends from the annual revenues, although Calgryp also wangled a first option provision allowing it first crack at buying out the farmers from the project, should its partners offer to back out. **Vincent Cebreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Occupying the southern coast of the Australian continent is a 7,280-square-kilometer city noted for its diversity, vitality and vibrance—Melbourne.

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"The Event Capital of Australia"

Just about any time of the year is a good one to visit Melbourne as it boasts of a year-long calendar of cultural and sporting events.

Summer sees outdoor evening performances of plays, **Carols by Candlelight** at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, cricket at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (the main stadium for the 1956 Olympic Games and the 2006 Commonwealth Games), the **Australian Open** tennis championship at Melbourne Park, the **Australian Grand Prix**, the **Rip Curl Pro** and **Sun Smart Classics** surfing competitions on Victoria's dramatic and rugged surfing coast, the **Summer Music Festival** at the Victorian Arts Centre, horse racing at Hanging Rock, the **St. Kilda Festival**, the **Lunar Festival** at Victoria Street, **Chinese New Year** celebrations, the **Melbourne Food & Wine Festival**, and the **Moomba** family festival. Autumn features "Australian Rules" football matches, the **Greek Antipodes Festival**, **Garden Week**, the **International Comedy Festival**, and **Heritage Week**. Winter brings even more football as well as the **International Film Festival**.

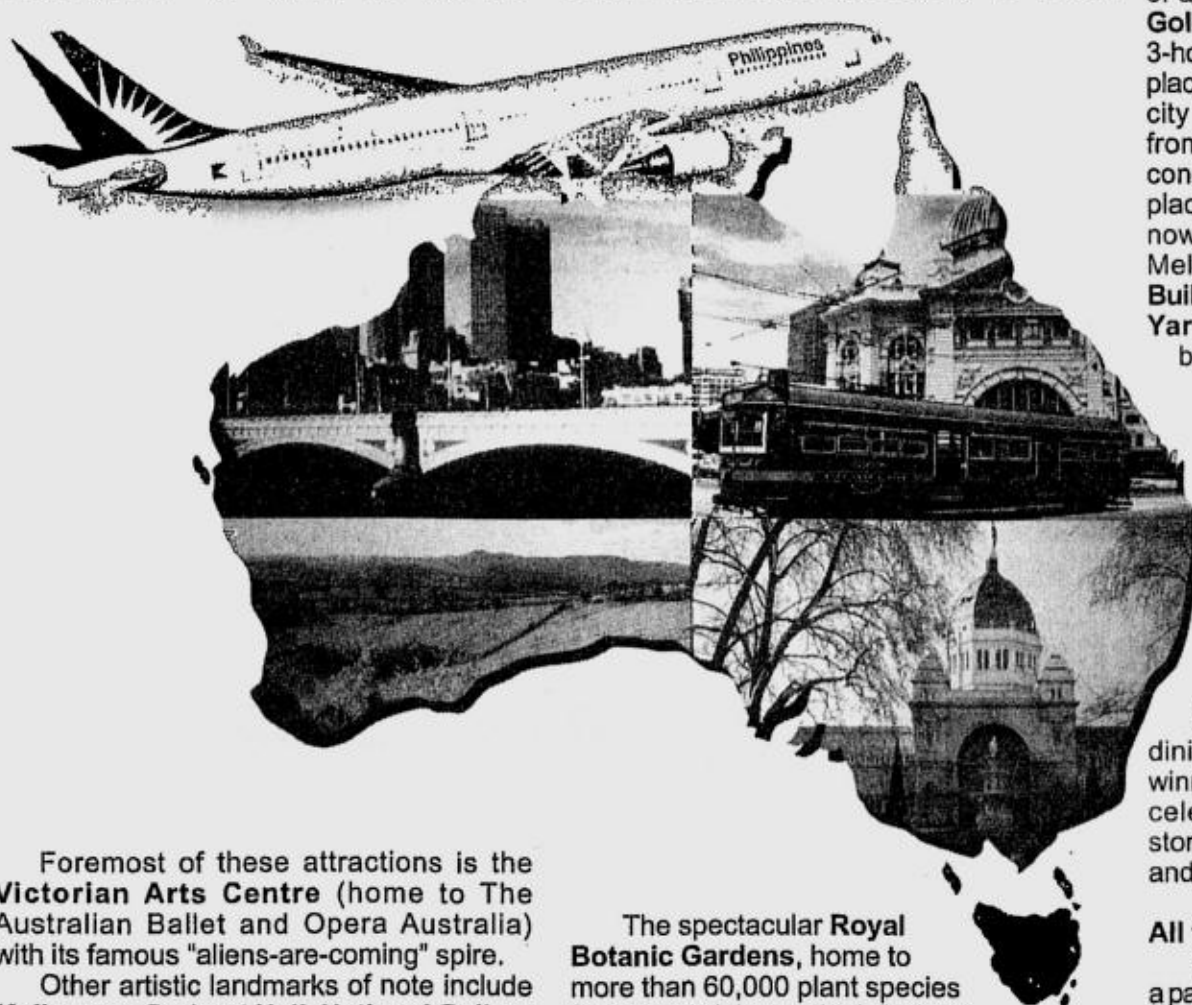
The advent of spring brings with it the football finals, the **Qantas Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix**, the world famous **Melbourne International Festival of the Arts**, the **Royal Melbourne Show**, **Oktoberfest**, the **Spring Racing Carnival** (including the Melbourne Cup—the horse race that stops the nation), the **Italian Lygon Street Festa**, and the **Hispanic Community Festival**.

In 2006, Melbourne plays host to the Commonwealth Games, one of the world's biggest sports festivals rivaling even the Olympics.

"The City for the Arts"

A city that loves to celebrate, Melbourne is not only an "endless stage" to a number of major festivals and cultural events reflecting the diverse artistic expression of its residents, but also a "larger-than-life canvas" featuring the glory and grandeur of 19th century architectural style.

Airborne to Marvelous Melbourne



Foremost of these attractions is the **Victorian Arts Centre** (home to The Australian Ballet and Opera Australia) with its famous "aliens-are-coming" spire.

Other artistic landmarks of note include **Melbourne Concert Hall**, **National Gallery of Victoria**, **Regent Theatre**, historic **Princess Theatre**, as well as renowned art-house cinemas like the **Kino**.

The diverse artistry of Victorian designers, actors and musicians is practically on show at enchanting venues all over the city, such as the outstanding art galleries and museums, traditional jazz plays in night clubs, and opulent outdoor theatres and concerts.



"The Garden City"

Laid out on a symmetrical, rectangular grid and characterized by wide streets and an abundance of parks and gardens, Melbourne has been dubbed the "Garden City," a reputation it has been proud to keep.

The city manages over 650 hectares of park lands, gardens and recreation reserves, thus providing a tranquil sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

The spectacular **Royal Botanic Gardens**, home to more than 60,000 plant species from around the world, is indeed a sight to behold.

You can also visit **Fitzroy Gardens** (home of Cooks' cottage, the Fairies Tree and the Conservatory), a perfect spot for picnics; **Royal Park**; the famous **Melbourne Zoo**; and the **Tan Track** in the King's Domain.

Melbournians love their parks and gardens so much that it's not unusual to catch a wedding in full swing or witness a party of office workers having their breakfast by the banks of the Yarra River.

"Attractions Galore"

Your tour of Melbourne won't be complete without seeing the city's great landmarks.

Flinders Street Station—constructed in 1854, it is the starting point of Australia's first locomotive railway system and now an integral part of the daily routine for nearly a quarter of a million people everyday; **Melbourne's Golden Mile Heritage Trail**—a 4-kilometer, 3-hour, self-guided walking trail highlights the places, characters and events that made the city "marvelous" as a result of its wealth from gold; **Old Melbourne Gaol**—once considered as one of the city's grimmest places, Victoria's first extensive jail complex now offers fascinating insights into early Melbourne penal life; **Royal Exhibition Building**—site of Australia's first Parliament; **Yarra River**—the city area's southern boundary, it is the origin of Melbourne's flourishing years and now the site of many shops, wine bars, snack stalls and restaurants; **Yarra Valley**—a lovely area on Melbourne's northeastern outskirts ideal for bushwalking or biking, it is one of Australia's most respected wine-growing regions with more than 30 wineries noted for their pinot noir, chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon and sparkling wines. And when it comes to shopping and dining, Melbourne is replete with award-winning restaurants, lively cafes, as well as celebrated fashion houses and jewelry stores catering to your discriminating styles and preferences.

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4TH WEEK: OPERATION 'ENDURING FREEDOM'

Criticism of US rises over civilian deaths

AS A FATHER sat down to breakfast with his seven children last Sunday, a US bomb flattened their flimsy mud-brick home.

The blast shattered a neighbor's house, killing another two children in one of the most gruesome scenes of Washington's three-week-old bombing of the Afghanistan capital of Kabul.

Two other civilians died when a bomb hit the minibus in which they were attempting to flee Kabul with their family.

US bombers killed a total of 12 civilians in the two early Sunday morning raids on the city.

As criticism heats up against the United States over civilian casualties in its bombing campaign in Afghanistan, the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance commanders agreed to launch a new offensive on the key northern city of their former stronghold, Mazar-e-Sharif. And they are demanding more US air support.

The US strikes entered its fourth week yesterday with a rapidly swelling anger among tribesmen in neighboring Pakistan eager to fight alongside the ruling Taliban.

A series of US mishits have killed civilians and sparked concern among Islamic countries about the US raids, which look set to extend through the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan that starts in mid-November.

In the opposition-held stronghold of Jalal-ud-Din Saraf, Northern Alliance foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah, while refusing to confirm the presence of US soldiers in the area, said on Sunday that

the opposition was trying to work more closely with the United States to avoid mistakes.

The bombing of civilians is particularly embarrassing for Muslim countries, like Pakistan, which support the United States.

Support for Taliban
Support for the beleaguered, hardline Taliban came from among Pakistani tribesmen, including many from the same ethnic group as the Taliban, the Pashtun tribe.

In a display of ominous unity, several thousand Pakistani Pashtun tribesmen—armed with rocket launchers, automatic rifles, swords and axes—were close to the Afghan border waiting for approval from the Taliban to join the war against the US.

Several thousand more Pakistanis, many from the tribal zones, are believed to be already with the Taliban army in Afghanistan bracing for US-led ground forces.

Other armed tribal militants are blocking cars and trucks on Pakistan's main highway to China, while two youth groups have threatened to kill anyone supporting attempts by the former Afghan king, Mohammad Zahir Shah, to prepare a post-Taliban government.

Verify deaths
The Taliban say about 1,000 people have died in three weeks of air strikes over Afghanistan, but the figure is impossible to verify.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld accused the Taliban of lying

about the toll, and of using mosques and schools as ammunition depots and command centers.

Rumsfeld and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw—both interviewed on ABC television—dismissed claims the US-led campaign was foundering in the face of stiff resistance from the Taliban and mounting civilian casualties.

"We feel that the air campaign has been successful," Rumsfeld said.

Straw said the destruction of the Taliban's air capability meant "it's now possible to infiltrate ground troops into Afghanistan to fight the Taliban."

On Sunday, US warplanes bombed Taliban positions in northeast Afghanistan, close to the border with Tajikistan, for the first time since air raids started on Oct. 7.

On Monday, US warplanes streaked back over front lines north of Kabul, although there were no immediate reports of news bombing on Taliban positions.

With the increased air support, commanders of the Northern Alliance decided on the new offensive on the Taliban-held city of Mazar-e-Sharif at a special war council on Monday to "begin within the next two or three days," Commander Mohammad Atta spokesman Mohammad Ashraf Nadeem told AFP from the region.

A series of earlier offensives aimed at capturing the strategic town have been rebuffed by Taliban forces. The capture of Mazar-e-Sharif, which is close to the border with Uzbekistan, would give US combat troops in the central Asian state

an easy entry point to Afghanistan.

Too light

Afghan opposition forces are complaining increasingly that US bombing to date is too light to drive out Taliban forces defending Kabul. US strategy has focused on selective strikes on Taliban positions and those of Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaida network, rather than mass bombing.

The US claims Bin Laden and his Afghanistan-based al-Qaida network masterminded the Sept. 11 airborne suicide attacks that killed more than 5,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

In Washington, Sen. John McCain, who lost to George W. Bush, for the Republican presidential nomination, warned that undue restraint by the US military and its allies was emboldening Taliban fighters.

Considerations such as civilian deaths from US bombing and the Muslim holy month of Ramadan must be "secondary to the job at hand, which is to wipe out nests of terrorism."

The Bush administration also came under increased pressure from lawmakers to secure a ground base for special operations inside Afghanistan after three weeks of air strikes have failed to kill Bin Laden or topple the Taliban government that is coddling him.

All praise for Musharraf

In his interview Sunday, Rumsfeld also praised beleaguered Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf for coping with "a very difficult situation," stating that he is "doing a terrific job."

Pakistan, a key US ally, has faced an increasingly violent backlash from Islamic fundamentalists.

No group Monday had claimed responsibility for the massacre of churchgoers in the Pakistani city of Bahawalpur, but along with a bus bomb in Quetta that killed three people, it has increased fears of a backlash against the US war on neighboring Afghanistan.

Christian groups have demanded extra protection and armed police were put on duty at the gates to churches following the Sunday's killings, which Musharraf called "an act of terrorism."

Anthrax

In New Jersey, the US postal worker diagnosed with anthrax worked at the Hamilton mail processing center near the city of Trenton, who previously was suspected of having inhalation anthrax, has been hospitalized and was recovering, Center for Disease Control spokesperson Donna Garland said.

Fifteen people have now been diagnosed with either inhalation anthrax or skin anthrax, a less serious manifestation of the illness. Three have died of the disease.

The US justice department also revealed late Sunday that a postal site near Washington that processes its mail has tested positive for the presence of anthrax spores.

The site processes mail addressed to US Attorney General John Ashcroft, as well as other department officials. (Story on Page A9)

Investigators still do not know the source of the bacteria used in the attacks,

and officials warned more anthrax-laced letters could remain undiscovered.

"There may be other letters that are stuck in the system," White House chief of staff Andrew Card said on the "Fox News Sunday" program. "But we are making hard to make sure that any contamination is confined and that we can deal with it."

"I think what we're going to have to put in numbers of forces that are capable of maintaining a base for a period of time, relatively short, so they can branch out and move into certain areas where we believe that the Taliban and al-Qaida's network are located," Republican Sen. John McCain said on CBS' "Face the Nation" program.

Rumsfeld said the use of ground troops has not been ruled out, so "there certainly is that possibility," adding however that it "wouldn't be very wise" to reveal when and how many troops could be involved.

And in New York, thousands of friends and relatives attended an emotionally charged memorial service for those who died when two hijacked jetliners slammed into the World Trade Center.

The interdenominational service was held in full view of the still smoldering rubble of the twin towers that until Sept. 11 were among the best-known New York landmarks.

In Pakistan, armed police were ordered to protect churches Monday after 18 worshippers were gunned down in the worst attack against Christians in the history of the Muslim nation. Reports from AFP, AP and Reuters

Abus suspect in Zamboanga bombing

(From page A1)

seed money from a charity run by Osama bin Laden, the principal suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States that killed nearly 5,000 people.

"The Abu Sayyaf bandits are on the run, they're nowhere to hide. To relieve the pressure, they have conducted bombings in Zamboanga," Villanueva said.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina also said evidence indicated that the Abu Sayyaf planted the bomb in retaliation for a

heightened military campaign in Basilan, about 20 km from Zamboanga City.

"The Abu Sayyaf members are behind this bombing although we have not exactly pinpointed who," Lina said in a television interview.

Col. Francisco Gudane, spokesperson of the Southern Command, said the Abu Sayyaf bandits were "the No. 1 suspects," although he stressed that no group had yet claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Lower death toll
Police and military officials have

lowered the death toll in the bombing to five. They said that at least 56 people had been injured.

Col. Alexander Yano, head of Task Force Zamboanga, said earlier reports of 11 deaths were caused by the "confusion" that attended the aftermath of the explosion.

"We saw a lot of bodies being transported and carried by ambulances. We're sorry," Yano told reporters.

Four of the fatalities were identified as Catherine Cordita, a 9-year-old girl; Sultan Amil Asmir, a security guard of

the Zamboanga City Puericulture Center, Jimmy Principil, a shoemaker; and Gerardo Mencia, who died yesterday afternoon at the Zamboanga City Medical Center.

Police have yet to establish the identity of a man who was killed in the explosion.

Suicide bomber?

Gudane earlier said investigators had suspected that the bomber was among the fatalities.

But the man's employers denounced the allegation, saying Sultan Amil

Asmir was a security guard employed by a commercial establishment in the area. The blast blew off his face and one of his hands.

"Sultan was a good security guard," said Gaga Sabanal, an official of the Golden Sun Security Agency.

Quoting witnesses interviewed by the police, Sabanal said an unidentified man had left the can of explosives at one of the shops. A shopkeeper became suspicious and asked the guard to report it to the police.

Sultan Amil Asmir then decided to open the can himself, causing it to explode, Sabanal added.

Police cordoned off the area of the blast as investigators gathered evidence. Nearby streets were closed to traffic. Military and police checkpoints sprang up overnight across the city.

"There is speculation" that the Abu Sayyaf was behind the bombing, said Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat. "They are saying the bombing might be linked to what is happening in Afghanistan and Basilan," he said.

More attacks

Lina warned of more attacks as the military intensified its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

"We have reason to be alarmed," Lina said. "We have been on high alert for several months... for fear that they may try attacks on other urban centers and in Metro Manila."

2 Filipinos linked...

(From page A1)

Filipino in Saudi Arabia planned the murder, with the help of Luc Ethier's Filipino wife," said the source.

"But there seems to be evidence against both men. And both of them appear to have some sort of connection with the wife."

The shooting aroused security concerns among Western expatriates in Kuwait after the United States declared war on terrorism in Afghanistan in retaliation for the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Ethier was shot and killed on Oct. 20 as he was walking with his wife at a busy shopping area in Fahaheel, 20 km south of Kuwait City.

Ethier, who converted to Islam in February, died instantly. His wife survived the attack after she was also shot in the back and shoulder.

"We're still investigating claims by the Filipino currently in our custody. If

Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Rodolfo Biazon urged authorities to identify the culprits and review their counterterrorism action plan.

The Abu Sayyaf has reportedly suffered heavy casualties in recent weeks in frequent clashes with the military.

The bandits that gained international notoriety for kidnappings and beheadings are holding two Americans and nine Filipinos hostage in Basilan.

Martin and Gracia Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, were abducted from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan. The Filipino hostages are mostly coconut plantation workers kidnapped for use as forced labor.

The bandits also seized American Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California, along with the Burnhams. They beheaded him in June to warn the military to call off its offensive. Sobero's scattered bones were found in Basilan early this month.

The bandits have been suspected of carrying out recent bombings in Zamboanga City. Three homemade bombs exploded in quick succession at three budget hotels in downtown Zamboanga on Oct. 7, but the blasts caused minor damage and no injuries. With reports from Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Juliet Labog-Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; AP and AFP

GMA: Don't forget economy

(From page A1)

the loss of around 100,000 lives through starvation and disease.

"The events of Sept. 11 could push the global economy over the edge toward a full-blown recession. This could lead to further loss of lives not only as a result of conflict itself, but as a result of the inability of governments to provide for their people as the global economy contracts," she said.

She said the world must also tackle poverty to root out the cause of terrorism.

"Evil is the cause of terrorism but evil breeds its masked face in poverty," the President said.

She called on governments to tackle poverty through a new round of trade talks at the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting in Doha, Qatar next month.

She said the East Asia summit was crucial because it was the first major meeting to be attended by business leaders since the terrorist attacks on the United States.

At the meeting's opening session, there were no signs of anti-globalization or any other protest but there was a heavy police presence at the Convention and Exhibition Center, particularly when Ms. Macapagal made her appearance.

War against poverty

She said the key was to link the war against terrorism with the war against poverty.

Earlier Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Shamsad Ahmad, mirrored Ms. Macapagal's comments on the causes of terrorism.

"This faceless enemy lurks in the shadows of fear and suspicion. It breeds on despair and disillusionment and it is fed by poverty and igno-

rance," Ahmad said.

He said overcoming this problem was key to defeating terrorism.

Ms. Macapagal said the Philippines had played its part in response to the fall-out from the terrorist attacks, including offering the United States its former military bases.

In addition, the Philippines is working to promote a tri-nation anti-terrorist coalition with Malaysia and Indonesia, according to the President.

"Through this coalition, we will work to share intelligence on terrorist activities, tighten border patrols and, when necessary, partake in joint peacekeeping operations," the President said.

She said more of this kind of initiative was expected when members of the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations meet in a summit next month in Brunei.

With respect to Asean free trade, the President said the group should make the Asean Free Trade Area "a reality not in some distant future but in the next few years."

She, however, pointed out that Japan must also play her traditional role "as the engine for growth" in Asia.

President Macapagal's pitch to fight terrorism and to lift the global economy was in line with the summit's theme: "Reversing the Downturn: Preparing Asia's Growth Agenda."

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayalza II, president and chief executive officer of the Ayalza Corp., is one of the five co-chairs of the summit.

After her visit to Hong Kong, the President will start her three-day state official visit to China.

The President and her party were expected to arrive at the Beijing Old Airport at about 7:25 last night.

From the airport, Ms. Macapagal will motor to the Kerry Center Hotel where

she will address the Filipino community.

Some 1,500 Filipinos work in mainland China, mainly in the cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Xiamen and Beijing.

Narco-politics

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the visit would boost the Philippine government's campaign to combat narco-politics.

Ms. Macapagal and Chinese President Jiang Zemin are set to sign three agreements: one on cooperation against transnational crimes, an extradition treaty and an agreement to combat drug trafficking.

The signing of the extradition treaty will bring to 10 the number of countries that share an extradition pact with the Philippines. The others are US, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Micronesia, Thailand and Switzerland.

Tiglao noted that closer cooperation between the two countries would have a positive impact on Manila's effort to stop the scourge of illegal drugs.

He pointed out that the two most recent and biggest drug busts involved either drugs believed to be of Chinese origin or men from China.

These were the discovery of a shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) factory in Lipa, Batangas, and the seizure of close to 500 kilos of shabu in Real, Quezon.

In the Lipa bust, Chinese men were in charge of operating the shabu factory while the drugs seized in Real came from China.

"Where did the drugs come from? Based on our experience, these two drug busts had Chinese elements," Tiglao said.

China is the principal source of shabu in Asia and its trafficking is being handled by Hong Kong-based triads, which have ties to Philippine syndicates. Tiglao noted that of the convicts on

death row, 21 were Chinese nationals sentenced for drug trafficking.

He said Ms. Macapagal and Ziang might also sign an agreement, which will allow the transfer of Filipino and Chinese convicts to their country of origin.

As for the 21 convicted Chinese drug traffickers, Tiglao said: "The President wants them to be extradited to serve their sentence considering that it may take some time before it is implemented in the Philippines."

New challenges

"Breaking New Grounds: New Challenges, New Market, New Opportunities" is the theme of Ms. Macapagal's visit to China.

Of the four new challenges identified, three concerned trade and investments while one was concerned with transnational crimes.

"In the politico-security realm, new challenges pertain to the new threats to security in the region in the form of transnational crimes, including terrorism in all forms," according to a government briefing paper.

Military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus had earlier disclosed that drug syndicates constituted one of the most dangerous threats to national security.

Corpus said that unless the syndicates were stopped, the Philippines might become a narco-state like Colombia.

Ms. Macapagal and Zemin were also expected to touch on the six-nation dispute over the Spratlys in the South China Sea.

Discussions, however, will focus on China's "positive role" in finding a diplomatic solution to the sovereignty question over the mineral-rich collection of atolls and islets.

The Spratlys is being claimed wholly or in part by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia. With a report from AFP and Michael Lim Ubac

Erap 'winning' in perjury case

(From page A1)

terday in open court that in accusing Estrada of underdeclaring his assets for 1999, the prosecution should have indicated in the charge sheet exactly how much wealth the accused allegedly hid.

"It is the view of this court that the prosecution needs to be precise," said Garchitorena, who refused to admit the bank documents that the prosecutors submitted as evidence.

The prosecutors said they would file a motion for reconsideration and, if necessary, raise the issue to the Supreme Court.

A gleeful Rene Saguisag, a member of Estrada's defense team, told reporters jokingly: "This case must now be buried. It can still make it to Nov. 1 (All Saints' Day), so that Ombudsman Aniano Desierto can visit its tomb. May this case rest in peace."

In an argument reiterated several times during the three-hour morning hearing attended by Estrada, Garchitorena said that "for a man to be charged with perjury, the truth that he allegedly did not indicate should be clearly stated."

The justice added: "How can you tell him he has understated the amount (in his 1999 statement of assets and liabilities) when you don't know what

he has understated? If a man is accused of falsehood, he has to be told what is the truth."

"According to Garchitorena, the 'thoroughly vague' charge merely stated that Estrada's wealth at the time was 'more' than what he declared in his 1999 statement. 'When is 'more' a substantial violation?' the justice said, adding that it could cover amounts ranging from a mere P1 to P1 million, and so on.

Dismissal

"In effect, the decision is practically a dismissal of the case. The ruling tried to foreclose our case even before we can present it," Prosecutor Alex Padilla told reporters after the hearing.

"The case is still very simple," he said. "All we have to do is to prove that the P35 million (cash in hand and in bank) which the accused declared in his 1999 statement is not true. In fact, in two banks alone he had P74 million as of Dec. 31, 1999. Obviously, he lied."

Asked by a reporter whether the prosecution now sensed defeat in this case, Padilla said: "Yes. We are losing this case by a wrong decision by the Sandiganbayan."

During the hearing, another prosecutor, Raymundo Julius Olague, argued that they had decided not to put an amount in the perjury charge "so as not to box ourselves in."

Padilla said later in the interview that "the amount is not necessary."

He explained the "fallacy in the court ruling" thus: "For example, we placed the (undeclared) amount at P74 million. But later it turned out that because of withholding taxes, etc., there was really only P73 million."

"Basing it on the logic of the court, (Estrada) will still be acquitted because we have not given the exact amount."

Estrada, dressed in a barong and flanked by four lawyers, did not speak at the hearing.

Many seats at the Sandiganbayan were empty, and no protesters massed outside. In Estrada's earlier appearances, thousands of protesters, both for and against him, showed up.

Riot police guarding the court numbered about 100, down from the hundreds who protected earlier sessions.

Mistake

Going by the court's ruling, it appeared that the prosecution made the big mistake of earlier amending the perjury charge against Estrada.

The original charge contained what Garchitorena yesterday said was the missing element—that Estrada's undeclared cash in hand and in bank in 1999 supposedly amounted to P1.11 billion. It also claimed then that Estrada had interests in eight corpo-

rations that were not declared in his 1999 statement.

Prosecutors later amended the charge by removing the amount and reducing the number of firms in question to three.

Garchitorena repeatedly pointed out these changes at the hearing, later noting in his order that the prosecutors had in effect "admitted they did not know how much" was undeclared by Estrada.

Their "only certainty," the justice said, "is that President Estrada has much more money."

The prosecutors were unable to formally enter as evidence documents showing that Estrada kept a total of P74 million in the Keppel Bank and Security Bank.

His 1999 deposits at Keppel supposedly totaled around P62 million, and his three Security Bank accounts, about P12 million.

Renato Balatbat, a Keppel San Juan branch senior manager, and Salvador Serrano, Security Bank vice president, were to have attested to the bank documents at the witness stand.

Adding to the prosecution's headaches, Citibank Greenhills manager Geraldine Nakpil did not honor the subpoena to appear in court to testify on Estrada's dollar accounts with the bank.

Instead, Citibank sent its lawyer, Rowena Flores, who insisted that the bank was barred from divulging its clients' dollar accounts under the Foreign Currency Deposit Unit Law.

In a surprising retreat, the prosecution later decided to do away with the supposed evidence and testimony coming from Citibank and to just focus on Keppel and Security Bank.

Yesterday's deliberations stemmed from the defense panel's "motions to quash," which asked the court to nullify the subpoenas issued to the three banks.

The defense contends that the documents and testimony sought by the subpoenas were "irrelevant" to the case.

15 days

The prosecution also decided not to proceed with the presentation of evidence with regard to the three "undeclared" Estrada corporations.

"We felt that it was enough to do the bank statements alone because one violation (on this issue) is good enough to get a conviction," Padilla later told reporters.

With the prosecution stopped from presenting proof of Estrada's supposed bank accounts and electing not to pursue issues relating to the corporations, the court gave it 15 days to "close its arguments."

The scheduled continuation of

Estrada's perjury hearings today and tomorrow is thus canceled.

Estrada is facing a second perjury case, this time regarding his 1998 statement. Filed only two weeks ago, the case landed in the third division that is also hearing his more serious case of plunder.

Later yesterday, Associate Justice Anacleto Badjo, chair of the Sandiganbayan's third division, announced the resumption of the plunder trial on Nov. 5, 7 and 8 and every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday thereafter.

Apart from everything else, the prosecutors also failed in the attempt to remove from the perjury case Associate Justice Gregory Ong, whom they perceive to be biased.

Ong, a member of the court's first division, denied for lack of merit last week's prosecution motion for his inhibition, saying it was both "unfair

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 20°
Laag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Taoloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 36° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/30/01

ROUNDUP

Soldiers survive blast

CAGAYANDE ORO CITY—An Army captain and his men survived a grenade explosion in Surigao del Norte on Thursday. Reports reaching the 4th Infantry Division here said Capt. Ericson Rosana of the 20th Infantry Battalion and a platoon of his men were on convoy and passing through Barangay Magpayang in Mainit town when an unidentified man lobbed a grenade at them. The grenade exploded two meters from the truck where the soldiers rode. Cpl. Cesar Palanca and a pedestrian were injured in the blast.

Butch D. Enderio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Vice mayor 'disappears'

PAGADIAN CITY—Vice Mayor Henrieto Dogon has been absent from public view for several days now after a Cebu court ordered his arrest for estafa. His disappearance fueled speculations that he is in hiding. But his lawyer Teodoro Quicoy said Dogon left Thursday with Mayor Warlito Pulmones to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. The Municipal Trial Court in Cities in Cebu City on Oct. 3 issued a warrant for his arrest after Dogon issued nine checks with insufficient funds.

Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 employees nabbed

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte led policemen on Friday in the arrest of two employees, who were tagged as those behind the pilferage of the crude oil stock of the City Engineer's Office. The arrested suspects were identified as Eduardo Perez, 38, mechanical engineer, and Julito Lanutan, 27, both of Budbud, Bunawan district. Recovered from the suspects were 40 liters of crude oil placed in plastic containers. Duterte said he would recommend Perez and Lanutan's dismissal from the government service.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

5 swindlers arrested

DAVAO CITY—Police here arrested at least five "big-time" swindlers, including two Manila-based businessmen who are engaged in selling US bank notes, inside a local hotel here on Friday. Earlier, General Santos City-based businessman Antonio Armilla complained that the suspects duped him by selling him Wells Fargo Notes, which were later found to be fake. Police recovered 19 pieces of counterfeit bank notes, each with a face value of \$10,000 and a bundle of fake US dollars.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

8 held for 'jueteng'

BATANGAS CITY—Police reported the arrest of at least eight jueteng collectors in a raid in Barangay Santiago, Malvar. The suspects were charged with violation of the Anti-Illegal Gambling Law. The gambling operator immediately posted a bail bond for their release. Jueteng collectors reportedly operate in 102 of the 105 barangays here, including the city's market places and even government offices.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Oplan Albay Express'

LEGAZPI CITY—Major Jose Broso, Armed Forces Public Assistance Group head for Bicol, said the Philippine Army has intensified its military activities under a campaign called "Oplan Albay Express." The campaign aims to dismantle rebel formation in western Albay, Sorsogon and parts of Camarines Sur. Broso also called on the police to be always on alert for possible rebel retaliation.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rebs kill DPWH workers

BAAY-LICUAN, Abra—Three workers of the Department of Public Works and Highways were stabbed and killed by men believed to be communist rebels early Thursday in Barangay Talaay along the Abra-Kalinga road here. They were identified as Reynaldo Timbreza, 33, and Dominador Aprecio, 60, both heavy equipment operators, and Huberto Timoteo, 55, driver. The victims were assigned to clear the Abra-Kalinga road of debris. Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PMA cadets pardoned

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—President Macapagal-Arroyo has pardoned 60 cadets of the Philippine Military Academy who have earned training demerits this year. The pardon, which the President grants as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, was relayed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. during the PMA's 103rd founding anniversary on Saturday. PMA officials said the cadets who earned demerits were meted out punishment tours or confinement in the academy's premises.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

INTELLIGENCE RESULT

4 men in Cagayan kidnapping fall

BY ESTANISLAO CALDEZ
AND VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Four suspects in the Aug. 12 kidnapping of the wife of a Chinese businessman here were arrested in separate police operations in the city and in Solana town.

Reports from the regional police office said Fortunato Mangahas and Joel Bulautan did not resist arrest when collared by policemen in Barangay Balao in Solana on Saturday.

Two other suspects, Robert Tumaliuan and Rodelio Atienza, were earlier arrested in this city.

The four were among the suspects in the kidnapping of Editha Chua, 56, wife of grocery owner Vicente Chua, in Barangay Ugac Norte here on Aug. 12.

The suspects, however, abandoned Chua in Roxas, Isabela, some 70 km from here, when their van hit a mound of gravel.

Police reports said the suspects be-

longed to a kidnap-for-ransom gang operating in Metro Manila and Cagayan Valley.

The group's suspected leader, Joey Jose, and his uncle, Alfred Jose, are being hunted by the police.

Police traced the suspects through the registration papers recovered from their abandoned Mitsubishi Adventure van in Isabela in August.

The van's owner, Alfred Jose, was identified as the owner of the Classica jewelry store located across the Chuas' grocery in this city.

Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., Cagayan Valley police director, said the arrests were the result of almost three months of intelligence operations that led to the identification of the suspects.

He said the Jose Gang is included in the list of the regional police intelligence committee's list of criminal gangs.

Resos said kidnapping charges were filed against the Jose and the other suspects before the municipal circuit trial court of Solana and Enrile towns on Oct. 25.

Three armed men barged into the com-

pound of the Chuas at 8:15 p.m. on Aug. 12 and took Editha with them.

The Chua couple had just arrived at their house in the family car. When their maid was about to close the gate, the armed men alighted from a dark blue Toyota Corolla parked near the Chuas' house and forced themselves into the compound.

At gunpoint, the suspects asked Vicente to go with them but when he resisted, they hit him with a pistol. This prompted Editha to beg the armed men to take her instead as her husband had a heart ailment.

The suspects took Editha and blindfolded her. They later transferred Editha to a Mitsubishi Adventure van and sped toward Santiago City.

Vicente reported the incident to the police and Tuguegarao Mayor Randolph Ting who, in turn, coordinated with the Isabela police to pursue the suspects.

Supt. James Melad, Isabela police director, immediately ordered his men to establish barricades and checkpoints and deploy more policemen to possible escape

routes of the armed men in Isabela.

At the checkpoints in Quezon and Mallig towns in Isabela, the suspects' van rammed the barricades set up by the police. They also ignored the policemen's warning shots.

In Roxas town, another barricade was put up and manned by more policemen led by Melad.

When the suspects' van did not appear, the police team went northward to Quezon town.

The police learned that before reaching Roxas, the suspects turned left to the Quirino-Roxas Road but they ran into a mound of gravel that damaged their vehicle.

The suspects escaped by using another getaway car and left the wounded Editha inside the car.

Barangay captain Ricarte Ilarde of Doña Concha in Roxas town found Editha in the car.

Ilarde told police that he thought it was only a simple accident. He said when he looked inside the car, he saw a woman, who turned out to be Editha and whose hands were tied.

NPA gunmen ambush, kill Tarlac police officer

LA PAZ, Tarlac—Suspected New People's Army rebels gunned down a police officer early Monday in Barangay San Isidro here.

Chief Insp. Arturo Pabustan, head of the 312th police mobile group of the Tarlac police, was aboard his service car when the suspected rebels opened fire at it, killing him instantly.

Supt. Mario Sandiego, Tarlac police director, described Pabustan's killers to be in their early 20s. Sandiego arrived here from Tarlac City to supervise the pursuit operations against the suspects.

Pabustan's unit was involved in anti-insurgency operations in the province and in court-ordered demolitions of slum areas, police sources said.

The suspects fled toward Tarlac City in a passenger jeepney with plate number CVY-142. Police traced the number to a heavy equipment vehicle.

Recovered from the victim's car were an M-16 rifle with 27 rounds of live bullets, a 9 mm Beretta pistol with 15 rounds of live bullets, a cal. 22 Winchester rifle, eight empty shells of cal.

45 bullets, a cal. 45 slug and an empty shell for M-16 rifle.

In Quirino, four suspected communist rebels and two government soldiers were wounded in an encounter in Barangay Disimongal in Nagtipunan town on Sunday, reports reaching Camp Melchor de la Cruz in Isabela said.

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander, identified the wounded soldiers as Cpl. Hermie Macahilos, member of the military's special operations team, and Francisco Daysa,

a militia member of the 11th civilian auxiliary company.

Reports said at least 10 NPA rebels engaged the military and civilian volunteers in a five-minute gunfight in Barangay Disimongal.

Later, the rebels withdrew, dragging along their four wounded companions.

Macahilos and Daysa were treated at the Camp Melchor de la Cruz Hospital in Echague town. Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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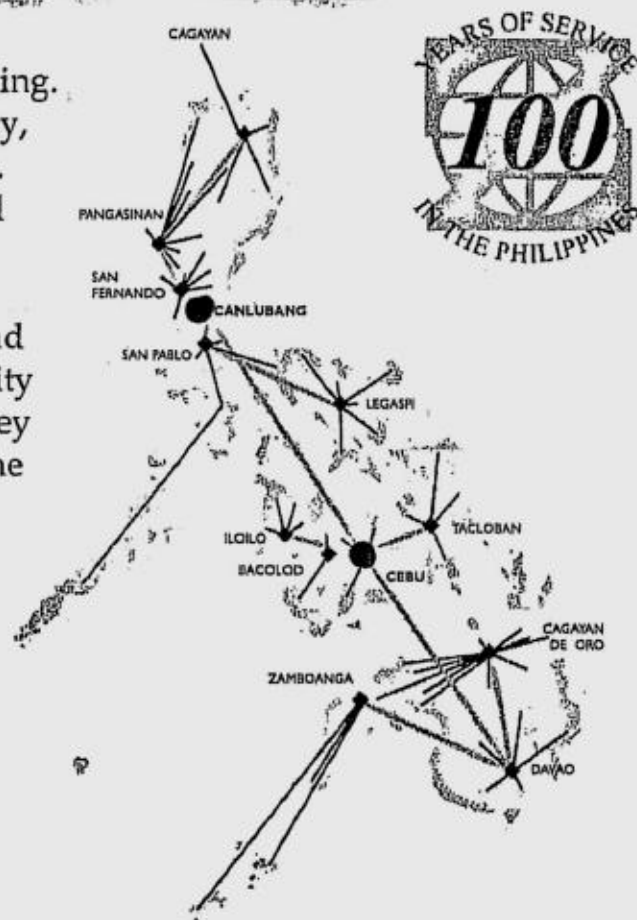
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Masterful Johnson, 2-0 for Diamonds

PHOENIX, Arizona—In the biggest game of his life, Randy Johnson was masterful and the New York Yankees were mystified.

As a result, the Arizona Diamondbacks are two triumphs from topping the three-time defending champions and winning the 97th World Series.

Johnson, a 38-year-old left-hander making his World Series debut, struck out 11 and allowed only three hits in a 4-0 blanking of the Yankees here Sunday, the first complete-game Series shut-out since 1993.

"He was wonderful. He was sensational. He dominated," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "He's terrific. He lived up to what he is supposed to be. I think the key was the command of everything that he had."

Whether baffling with breaking balls or firing fastballs past flailing New York batters, the overpowering southpaw gave Arizona, a fourth-year club, a 2-0 lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship.

"This is what everybody waits for," Johnson said. "Everyone dreams of being here. It's the biggest stage in sports."

Teams with a 2-0 home start have

won the World Series 24 of 31 times, including eight in a row since 1981, when the Yankees squandered such an edge on Los Angeles.

The Series continues Tuesday at Yankee Stadium, where New York has won seven Series games in a row since 1996.

"We're down. No question. You can't lose the first two and not feel the effects," Torre said. "We need to get back home and get it going."

The Yankees had not allowed a complete-game shutout or been held to as few as three hits in a Series game since Don Drysdale of Los Angeles hurled a three-hit shutout against them in the third game of the 1963 finals.

Arizona third baseman Matt Williams, who turns 36 next month, slammed a three-run homer in the seventh inning to give Johnson some security in what had been a pitching duel in the desert with Yankee lefty Andy Pettitte.

"It was a cut fastball," Williams said.

LINESCORES:

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New York	000	000	000
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"Andy threw me one the previous pitch on the inside corner. He just left one over the plate a little bit. As it turned out, Randy didn't need it."

Johnson, nicknamed "Big Unit" for his lanky frame, surrendered only one hit through the first seven innings, hurling strikes early and often to keep Yankee batters on the defensive.

"We were able to get ahead of hitters and put them in a situation where they have to be a little more aggressive," Johnson said.



JOHNSON: Shining Diamondback.

San Juan, Ruiz chess champions

TOP seed Dennis San Juan overcame Crone Guys of Nippon Life in an absorbing tiebreaker in the elite Harmony section, while Ryan Ruiz of Globe Telecom put up a stirring performance with a six-game winning run in the Serenity section, as both captured the 2001 Philippine Executive Chess Express (PEACE 2001) finals held recently at Land Bank's Multi-Purpose Hall in Makati City.

Playing white in an English Opening, San Juan exploited Goya's positional error early in the game which allowed him to post a strong knight in the center and control the seventh rank with his queen and rook. Goya tenaciously hung on by simplifying the position, but San Juan's advantage, even in the endgame, was just too much for him.

San Juan, who took over from international master Ricardo de Guzman as chess coach of the Maris High School Academy, rallied from a one game deficit in the best-of-three final match to force the tiebreaker against his disheartened rival, who clobbered Douglas Peña and Romel Asoque in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively. He lost the first game, drew the second then crawled out of an inferior position to win the third.

'Black Widow' here

GLAMOROUS Jeanette Lee, winner of the gold medal at the World Games in Japan earlier this year, is expected to arrive in Manila tonight for her celebrated showdown with 1999 World Pool Champion Efren "Bata" Reyes at Casino Filipino, Parañaque on Saturday, Nov. 3. Viva Television will cover the matches beginning at 3:30 p.m. over IBC 13. Lee will face Reyes in a race to 13 in the "LG Flatiron Billiard Challenge."

Kids triathlon on Dec. 2

THE FINAL leg of the National Triathlon trials Inter-Club champion ends with the kids taking centerstage in the youth triathlon event at the Ayala Alabang Village on Dec. 2.

Seeing action are top triathletes from various schools and universities.

For the age groupers, the inaugural National age-group series winds up with

its fourth and final leg in Cebu City on Nov. 24.

Sean Lim, 19, and Abet Biagan are expected to fight for first place in the male division, while Astrud Valdez and Amale Mendezona clash for the title in the distaff side.

Under the elite development component of the Triathlon Association of

the Philippines program, four up and coming juniors—Kaye Lopez, Tanya Mapua, Ani Karina de Leon, Abet Biagan and Chris Aldegue—also saw action in the Singapore International Triathlon.

Mendezona and Bing Alto also competed in the Hong Kong International Triathlon under the watchful eyes of coach Rick Reyes.

Alon-Alon earns Japan sojourn

VETERAN Abet Alon-Alon ruled the recent 6th Philippine Half-Ironman triathlon championships at the Rendezvous Sea Breezer in Matabungkay Beach, Lian, Batangas.

With his victory, Alon-Alon earned a trip to the 18th All Japan Strongman Triathlon event slated next year in Miyakojima, Japan. Alon-Alon clocked 4 hours, 58 minutes, 26 seconds in winning the lung-busting 2km swim, 90km bike and 21.1km marathon. Mark Candelaria and Michael Mariano finished second and third, respectively.

In the women's division, Popo Nagtalon emerged champion with a time of 6:06.16, followed by Janet Belarmino (7:07.23) and Sinag Amado (7:38.50). Organized by the Manila Triathlon Club under Raul Cuevas, the event was sanctioned by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines, Mayor Sixto Vergara of Lian and Calatagan Mayor Peter Palacio supported the event.

The event was sponsored by Smart Communications, Talk n' Text, David's Salon and San Mig light beer. Other sponsors were Gatorade, New Balance, Lapanday Holdings, David's Fitness Center, Coral Beach Resort, Matabungkay Resort, RX 93.1, Joey 92.3 and High 5.

Roligon derby today

COCKFIGHTING aficionados will be treated to breathtaking actions with the holding of the Tukaan 4-Stage Clean-up Derby today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Hosted by the Tukaan Group headed by Emoy Gorgonia, known for his cocking TV show on Channel 13, this derby will be participated in by respected cockers from Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Among them are William Go, ASF and Company, lawyer Rudy Salud, Dennis del Rosario Bobby del Rosario, Boy Lechon de Rocha, Boy Gamilla, Vic Yu and many other surprise entries.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said weights between 1.7 kg and 2.1 kg must be submitted on the day of the derby from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Meanwhile, Ty announced that there will a 2-Cock Uluhan hackfight with a P40,000 guaranteed prize at the Roligon on Nov. 11. This will be hosted by ASF & Company.

Macau Grand Prix roars off Nov. 17-18

THE MACAU Special Administrative Region (MSAR) will stage the 48th Macau Grand Prix, a prestigious motor sport event in Southeast Asia, on Nov. 17-18 featuring the FIA Formula 3 Intercontinental Cup.

The event will gather the world's leading F3 drivers.

Side by side with the Grand Prix is the thrilling Guia Race that will pit Asia's best against the world's leading "tin top" drivers.

Adding excitement to the event is the 35th Motorcycle Grand Prix.

The two-wheel race will spotlight Grand Prix and Street Specialist su-

perstars Kevin Schwantz, arl Fogarty, Didier de Radigues and Ron Haslam.

More than 300 racing drivers and riders from all over the world are joining the Macau meet.

Thousands of motor sports fans worldwide are expected to turn up

for the world's only street circuit race meeting that features both car and motorcycle races.

Among the past winners were Ayrton Senna (1983) for the 1st F3 run, F1 world champion Michael Schumacher (1990), F1 grand slammer David Coulthard (1991), Jensen But-

ton and three-time Macau Grand Prix competitor Alex Yoong.

Sport veteran and engineer Joao Manuel Costa Antunes, head of the Macau Grand Prix committee, said that they will enhance both safety measures and spectator comfort during the event.

Lindsay pockets 3rd title

LINZ, Austria—Top-seeded defending champion Lindsay Davenport took home her third singles title in three consecutive weeks Sunday, beating Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia 6-1, 6-4 in the final of the \$565,000 Generali Ladies WTA tournament.

The final was a repeat of last week's Swisscom Challenge final in Zurich, where Davenport downed 18-year-old Dokic 6-3, 6-1. The week before, she beat Justine Henin 7-5, 6-4 in the final of the Porsche Grand Prix, played in Filderstadt, Germany.

"It was closer than the score," Davenport said of Sunday's match—her 12th consecutive victory and seventh title this season. "Hopefully, I'll be fresh and ready to go on Wednesday, but so far, I couldn't ask for anything better."

Davenport, 25, will participate in the Sanex Championships, which begin in Munich, Germany on Tuesday.

Davenport paid little attention to

her ranking. She will return to No. 2 Monday, but could climb to the No. 1 spot she occupied last year.

"It's not that important. I really think Jennifer (Capriati) deserves to be ahead of me by winning the (Grand) Slams this year," Davenport said after Sunday's match. "I didn't perform well in our biggest tournament. I just did the best I can. I can't worry about what the computer says."

Henman triumphs

BASEL, Switzerland—Britain's Tim Henman defeated local favorite Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 Sunday to claim the trophy at the \$1 million Swiss Indoors tennis tournament.

Henman, the 27-year-old second seed, displayed his greater experience and calm over his 20-year-old challenger and managed to clinch the title without dropping a single set during the tournament.

"It's a very satisfying result," Henman said. "I didn't put a foot wrong all day."

Safin wins anew

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—Defending champion Marat Safin of Russia took his second title this season after coming back from one set down to beat Rainer Schuettler of Germany 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in Sunday's final of the \$800,000 St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament.

It was Safin's 10th career title. He captured his first title this season last month in Tashkent where he beat compatriot Yevgeny Kafelnikov in straight sets in the first all-Russian ATP final.

The 25-year-old Schuettler, who was playing in his third final this year, was broken in the opening game of the first set, but broke back in the next game. He broke third-seeded Safin again in the fourth game and jumped to a comfortable 4-1 lead.

Negros netter gains quarterfinal

BACOLOD—Gerard Bergavera of the host Negros Occidental Tennis Association started on a bright note after routing Jomar Nochet 8-2 and Sean Javellana 8-0 to advance in the boys' 12-under division of the rain-marred 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop over the weekend here.

Bergavera gained a quarterfinal seat together with Manila's Christian Canlas, who blanked Erwin Ponce 8-0 and edged Bernardine Siso 8-7; and another Big City entry Daniel Macalino ousted Bryan Lontok 8-2.

In the unisex 10-under bracket, Renan Mirto of Aklan downed John Dominguez 8-3; Martina Gubi of La

Carlota tripped Elper Lachica 8-6; Chynna Mamawal nipped Joseph Arbot 8-6; and Joanna Tan demolished Gilo Gustilo 8-1 in the Milo netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids where 158 boys and girls from the whole country registered.



DAVENPORT: "I couldn't ask for anything better."

Unranked Korean netter shocks Indian rival

UNRANKED Korean Hong Da-Jung stunned second seed Indian Radhika Tulpule, 7-5, 7-5, yesterday to reach the second round of the US\$10,000 Union Cement-ITF Philippines Women's Circuit I at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The 15-year-old Hong banked on a

steady baseline game to beat the Tulpule, the world's No. 497, for the third time since the Australian Juniors tournament last year.

"It was a tight match," said Hong after the Indian tied the count at 5-all in the second set. "I just concentrated on the next two games and won the match."

The victory sent Hong up against world's No. 863 Praviyawan Ratanakrong, round of the Mitsubishi Lancer International Championships held here last year.

"I hope to learn from her (Ratanakrong) and win this time," said Hong.

Also marching into the next round of this netfest supported by the ITF Grand

Slam Development Fund, Wilson balls, Viva Mineral Water, Traders Hotel and the Philippine Sports Commission were fourth seed Sonai Phadke of India, seventh seed Jennifer Schmidt of Austria and wild card Ha Ji-Sun of Korea.

The world's No. 533 Phadke out-

classed Filipino qualifier Deena Rose

Cruz, 6-1, 6-0, Schmidt defeated Julia Gandia of Spain, 6-3, 6-3, while Ha downed Catherine Turinsky of Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Meanwhile, wild card Czarina Mae Arevalo plays qualifier Alyssa Anne Labay in the first round starting at 9 a.m. today.

Dick's friend wears Saucony for golf

I HAD this friend who complained of pain on her heels each time she walked a mile.

"I can't understand it," she said. "This never happened to me before."

Turns out she wasn't wearing the right shoes. The high-heeled shoes weren't for walking. They were fashion shoes, commonly called a "pair of clogs." You can't walk with *bukya* and get away unscathed.

I cite my friend's case after Dick Sinchongco came to the office yesterday. Dick's the radio man who writes a column laden with witty one-liners. When told he was the new Joe Guevarra of Philippine journalism, he

replied: "Joe is an institution while I am merely a mental institution." Dick arrived in the office in shorts, carrying a plastic bag containing a pair of sneakers. Brand's name is Saucony.

"Try them," he said. "Should be nice to your feet."

I had a Saucony some years back. Not bad. Comfortable.

"Saucony left us a while back," said Dick, who came with his charming wife. "The market's crowded but Saucony's new backers are confident the shoes can stage a grand comeback."

Saucony is one of the world's oldest sports shoes. Hitting the market in 1898, Saucony began operations along



the banks of the Saucony River in a small Pennsylvania town. Native American inhabitants of the area coined the name, which means "Swiftly Running Water." Our feet are generally considered engineering marvels. They are made

mainly of bones, tendons, muscles, ligaments and skin. They are not perfect, and the shoes you choose can either make or unmake your feet. Not to brag but I usually wear Florsheims or Ballys when I'm not wearing either Adidas or Mizuno sneakers. I took after my mother's feet: they have bunions. Thus, for leather shoes, I wear either Florsheim triple EEEs or Bally Ws. Ferragamos also offer "comfies" but they are quite expensive. My golf shoes are usually the Crew by Mizuno, if not Presage. Very, very comfortable.

Dick said a friend of his wears Saucony when playing golf.

"He said he was quite comfortable

wearing them," said Dick. "He wears the trekking shoes."

Years of research and experimentation gave Saucony's engineers the Grid system—or the Ground Reaction Inertia Device. It works when the user's heel hits the ground, and the interwoven strings bend to the shape of the heel, absorbing the body shock. Do you know that your feet carry your weight almost triple when you are not wearing the right shoes?

Yes, Dick, I'll give it a try. In my next walk around the village, I'll be wearing Saucony.

Good luck.

Ateneo meet

THE ATENELO Alumni Affairs (AAA) Office is inviting all alumni and alumnae to join the 2002 Ateneo Basketball League (ABL) slated Jan. 12-March 23, 2002. Games will be held weekends at the Blue Eagle Gym and Moro Lorenzo Sports Center. For more details, please call Mr. Jun Dalandan, Director-Ateneo Alumni Affairs Office at 426-6081/82.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Jennifer Saret beat Heidi Chinchilo, 6-0, 6-0, to win the Utah Collegiate Tennis championship in Salt Lake City. Also today in 1996, Arnel Begonia defeated Duane Santos, 3-9, 9-5, 9-1, 9-4, to bag his fourth straight title in the National Open Squash Circuit at the Manila Polo Club courts.

U-Bix golf lures big cast

THE U-Bix-Riviera National Pro-Am Golf Championship on Nov. 13-17 at the Riviera's Langer course in Silang, Cavite, has drawn 18 big corporations thus far, organizing committee chair Danny Pizarro said yesterday.

Led by Bert Bravo's U-Bix/Konica conglomerate, the other giant corporate supporters of the nation's most prestigious pro-am dating back to the '50s include Herma Group through Hermie Esguerra, Mizuno Sports of Gopez Corp. and DHL through Rod Feliciano.

"Our friends from golf are very enthusiastic in extending their support to us," said Pizarro, president of host Riviera Golf and Country Club. "This early, we wish to express our gratitude to those who have sent their commitments to join us in this endeavor. To the would-be supporters like Pagcor and San Miguel our advance gratitude."

The other supporters of the event are Fortune Tobacco (care of Gen Antonio Abaya), Mayor



BRAVO

Joey Marquez of Parañaque City, Roche Pharmaceutical, Hermie Disini, Foremost, Coast Guard (care of Adm. Reuben Lista), Cinnabon Rolls, Travel Bug thru Vic Sotto, Solahart, Citgo and Cena.

The Celebrity Pro-Am will be held on Nov. 13 with the event by invitation only. Attractive prizes are at stake.

There are now a total of 37 pairs entered, led by former jungolf standout Gerard Cantada, who is paired with Kit Lopez. Also signing up, among others, are Ramon Brobio-Arnold Brizuela, Vivencio Laschia-Jay Bayron, Juanito Pagunsan-Juvic Pagunsan and Cassius Casas-Alex Ignacio.

"The tournament aims to revive one of the country's most prestigious golf tournaments," said Sec. Eduardo R. Ermita, chair of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines. "The Pro-Am has always been known as a unique tradition in Philippine golf lore."

A total of 80 teams will be screened before they are flagged off on Nov. 14, day 1 of the Pro-Am championship.

NBI tourney slated Nov. 8

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is set to stage the first NBI Director's Cup on Nov. 8 at the Southwoods Legends Course in Carmona, Cavite.

The fund-raising event initiated by the NBI Retirees and Ex-employees Association (REXEA) headed by former NBI Director Mariano Mison aims to provide sufficient life and accident benefits to its members.

The NBI, under Director Gen. Reynaldo G. Wycoco, the deputy directors and other heads of investigative units, has expressed full support to the golf tournament.

Golf enthusiasts in the private sector, government and the military are expected to join the meet.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos are also being invited to grace the ceremonial tee-off.

Interested parties may call the tournament secretariat—Clarissa and Maxie at tel. nos. 524-5084 and 525-6895.

Architects' Classic up at Sta. Elena

PARTICIPANTS to the 10th Annual Architects' Golf Classic will have more chances of pulling an ace with all par 3 holes of the Robert Trent Jones-designed Sta. Elena course provided with not just one but four cups to sink the ball in.

Four flags, each one signifying a designated prize, will distinguish holes 2, 7, 14, 17, 21 and 24.

Prizes in store for golfers who can combine both skill and luck are a 2001 upgraded SVX Starex, a home theater system, a home appliance showcase, trip to Bangkok, a Solahart Water Heater and Mizuno golf set.

The SVX Starex from Cybercars, home appliance showcase and trip to Bangkok are offered by Delta Faucet Company. The home theater system is provided by Digital Cinema In Style while the Solahart Water System and Mizuno Golf Set are sponsored by Mr. Benny Gopez. All but the top prize of SVX Starex will be raffled off if not won in the hole-in-one feat.

Slated Nov. 19, the 10th Annual Architects' Golf Classic is primed for another year of big turnout with signed up participation now close to 300. Last year's attendance hit 295.

Main sponsor is Boysen Paints. Other sponsors are Delta Faucet Company Puyat Vinyl Products, Puyat Steel Corp., Crown Asia Compounders, Futura Decor Products, House of Precast, Julant Pest Control, Otis Elevator, Expert Interior Products, Republic-Asahi Glass Corp., Samitrade, Solahart, Digital Cinema In Style, Emerald Vinyl, Magnum Suria Signs, Inc., Maramax Lighthouse, Mizuno, New Golden City Builders Philflex Wires & Cables, and Stainless Steel Industries.

Goosen bags No. 1 spot

MADRID, Spain — Retief Goosen got it all together Sunday.

The 32-year-old South African clinched the European Order of Merit when he captured the \$ 1.26 million Madrid Open in a playoff over England's Steve Webster after the two men tied at 264 (20 under).

On the third playoff hole, Goosen ran in a 3-meter (10-foot) putt for birdie on the par-3 17th as Webster could only par from the greenside fringe.

The South African led by one shot on the last hole of regulation play, but was bunkered in a right greenside trap.

The ball was below his feet and he thinned it 6 meters (20 feet) past the hole and two-putted for bogey as Webster parred to draw level and send the two men into overtime.

Goosen shot a final-round 3-under-par 68 to finish at 264 (20 under) and Webster had a 66.

It was Goosen's third victory of the season and the \$ 210,000 winner's check took his season's earnings in Europe to \$ 2,521,218. AP

DiMarco beats Duval

PINE MOUNTAIN, Georgia — Chris DiMarco made a 4.5-meter (15-foot) birdie putt on the 18th hole to tie David Duval, then won the Buick Challenge on the first playoff hole when Duval missed a 2.4-meter (8-foot) putt for par.

Duval, the defending tournament champion, closed with a brilliant 9-under-par 63 on the Mountain View course at Callaway Gardens, walking off with a one-stroke lead.

He then went to a television booth overlooking 18, where he watched DiMarco make the clutch putt with his unique claw grip to give both players a 21-under 267. AP



ELORDE'S GRANDSON

Juan Martin Elorde, 17, a student of De la Salle-Zobel and grandson of the great Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, is congratulated by ABAP president Manny Lopez for winning a gold medal in the recently concluded National Open Amateur Boxing Championship in Iriga City.

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Professional Women's Bowling Association

clation at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN
TENNIS: Masters Series (Paris), Early Round Coverage Day #1 at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Star Sports

SPORTS

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Johnson sparkles as Arizona takes 2-0 lead vs New York

A16

ATHLETES' TRAINING

Carrion hits hiring of foreign coaches



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CAN the Philippine Sports Commission hire foreign coaches without the knowledge of the national sports associations involved? Can it channel funds intended for national athletes to grassroots development?

Sports commissioner Cynthia Carrion doesn't think so. "Can we really do that? Are we allowed to do that? I already talked with some NSAs and they told me that some of these foreign coaches do not even train their national team or any member of the national training pool. And yet, we are spending so much for them," said Carrion yesterday.

The hiring of foreign coaches came into focus recently after some NSAs disowned the foreign coaches allegedly hired by the PSC to help in their training programs.

Cited were Japanese Madoka Amano, who's reportedly receiving the maximum \$2,500 (about P130,000) aside from P10,000 in allowances monthly to take charge of grassroots development in bowling, and Russian Ata Niazov Marat, who's doing the same thing and receiving almost the same amount in shooting.

In contrast to the princely salaries of the coaches in the PSC payroll, local coaches get only P10,500 plus P3,000 meal allowance monthly.

Apart from the big discrepancy in salary, Carrion's attention was drawn to the reported practice of the PSC to add the money being paid to the foreign coaches to the expenses of the NSAs concerned.

"That cannot be," said Carrion. "If we say, for example, that P3 million was given to bowling for a certain year, you cannot include the money spent on foreign coaches the PSC hired not in coordination with the NSA concerned."

In the wake of the athletes' unrest, Carrion said she would ask PSC chair Butch Tuason about the issues.

"It's about time that each member of the PSC board is made aware of all the policies taken by the agency so we will know why there is this move to revamp the PSC," said Carrion.

The ouster of Tuason and the PSC board is being sought by a group of athletes, coaches and officials holding vigil in front of the PSC administration building since Friday.

Roy Luarca



CARRION

Lanao all set to host Games

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

IF THERE'S any hassle going to Tubod, Lanao del Norte, for the First Mindanao Friendship Games, it has to be proximity—not peace and order.

From the closest airport in Cagayan de Oro City, it will take about four hours by land to get to the coastal municipality famous for its scenic waterways and king crabs.

But slowly grabbing the limelight from them is the newly built 71-hectare Mindanao Civic Center, site of the Games which will unfold Nov. 11-17.

"The governor has been talking with some people to ensure peace and order during the games," said Lanao del Norte provincial information officer Richel Umel, referring to Gov. Imelda Dimaporo.

The governor, wife of Rep. Abdullah "Bobby" Dimaporo, has appealed for suspension of hostilities with Moro Islamic Liberation Front especially during the Games.

"It's actually a peaceful and harmonious place no matter what they say about Mindanao," said the governor's office in charge Marilou Villamor, who accommodated mediamen during the ocular inspection of the venue.

Official business

The governor was abroad for an official business while the congressman was in Manila for the House sessions.

At least 5,000 athletes and officials from the different regions in the country are expected to come over for the Games which will have competitions in 15 sports events.

Aside from staging probably the biggest sporting event to be held in Mindanao, the province will also showcase the Mindanao Civic Center which has 18 hectare for sports facilities alone.

It has a 5,000-seater main stadium where athletics will be held, plus a 400-meter rubberized track oval and a football field, a multi-purpose gym/convention center which can seat 7,000 spectators, tennis courts, archery field, baseball diamond and aquatics area.

Right in the middle of the complex is a mess hall that can accommodate 200 persons at the same time, a media center, service center and locker room facilities.

But what set the complex apart from the rest is the fact that it has a 65-room hotel for VIPs. An additional 48 hectares were set aside for a planned golf course, while five more hectares comprise the provincial trade center, wet and dry market and bus terminal.

Umel said athletes and officials can also enjoy the tourist spots in the province like the Tinago Falls in Linamon town, Lidpa subterranean river in Munai, Nailangan Spring in Tubod and many more.



There's a career in here.

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- 4 Antipolo men shot dead,
not tortured, say probers A21
- Court nullifies appointment
of BJMP official A21

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- Tabloid publisher charged
with robbery, extortion A21

2 cops charged with QC ambush



RP'S BET

Darlene Carbungco, 20, of the Philippines, joins 18 other beauties from other countries in the Miss Asia Pacific Quest 2001 at the Philippine Plaza poolside. The pageant finals will be held Nov. 10 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

THE Oct. 18 ambush in Quezon City where two men were killed was the handiwork of two policemen based in Camp Crame, a witness told Quezon City investigators.

The Quezon City prosecutor's office recommended no bail for PO3 Reynaldo Cervano and PO3 Rogelio Santos, both assigned to the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. The two are facing charges of robbery with homicide, frustrated homicide and car theft.

Cervano and Santos, formerly with the PNP Special Action Force based in Laguna, are now detained at the Central Police District's criminal investigation division. They were reportedly turned over by

their superiors during the weekend.

CPD investigators silently worked on the case after a witness, who allegedly knew about the robbery, turned up and implicated the two lawmen.

The unnamed witness contacted CPD investigators a few days after the Oct. 18 ambush and told them that a third policeman, SPO1 Roberto Rusit, was involved in the robbery-killing.

But Cervano and Santos allegedly decided to kill Rusit who had become a liability after he was shot in the shoulder during the ambush, the witness told police.

For two weeks, CPD investigators monitored the activities of Cervano and Santos, and suspected that other ranking PNP officials could be involved in the ambush-robbery.

But when CIDG officials reportedly learned of the CPD investigation, they quietly turned over

2 COPS CHARGED/ A20

Cemeteries closed to vehicles

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA, JEROME ANING AND ALCUIN PAPA

THE gates of all Manila cemeteries will be closed to vehicular traffic and only pedestrians will be allowed through them starting midnight tomorrow.

Supt. Elmer M. Jamias, head of the Western Police District traffic enforcement office, said all vehicles would not be allowed through the gates, except for emergencies.

The restriction is part of the WPD's traffic re-routing plan or Oplan Kaluluwa 2001, to ease vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Nov. 1, All Saints' Day, when thousands of Filipinos are expected to flock to Manila's cemeteries, which include the La Loma Cemetery, the Chinese Cemetery and the North Cemetery.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza warned that weapons of any kind and alcoholic drinks would not

CEMETERIES/ A20

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*According to the Newspaper, Magazine & Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines, Sept. 2000.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Cemeteries closed to vehicles

(From page A19)

be allowed inside the cemeteries.

Gambling, loud music, rowdy behavior and other forms of disturbances would also not be allowed and violators would be dealt with severely by the police, Atienza said.

The rerouting scheme would take effect about 4 a.m. Thursday, Jamias said.

Loading and unloading areas for commuters bound for the Camanva area are on Jose Abad Santos corner Rizal Avenue Extension, 2nd Avenue corner Rizal Extension, Rizal Avenue corner Cavite Street, and T. Mapua corner Antipolo Street.

Those bound for Cubao coming from Quiapo have designated loading and unloading areas on A. Maceda near Makiling Street, Rizal Avenue/Cavite Street and Dimasalang corner Tiago streets.

For Sta. Cruz, the loading and unloading areas are on T. Mapua corner Antipolo Street, Felix Huertas/Antipolo Street and Rizal Avenue/Blumentritt.

Parking would be strictly prohibited on the sidewalks of Rizal Avenue Extension beside the Chinese Cemetery.

Buses would not be allowed on Dimasalang Street from A.H. Lacson to A. Maceda streets.

But parallel parking would be allowed on Aurora Boulevard from Dimasalang to Rizal Avenue Extension; Tecson Street, from Rizal Avenue to Aurora Boulevard; Pedro Guevarra from Blumentritt to Aurora Boulevard; and Felix Huertas, from Blumentritt to the Chinese Cemetery.

Jeepneys using the Balut-Blumentritt route can use Juan Luna Street to Solis Street, right on Jose Abad Santos, left on new Antipolo, right on T. Mapua, right on Old Antipolo, and right on Jose Abad Santos.

Jeepneys on Dimasalang going north should turn right on Makiling Street, right on A. Maceda, and right on Dapitan.

Jeepneys on Oroquieta Street bound for North Cemetery via Antipolo Street should turn right on Felix Huertas, back to their point of origin.

Provincial buses and cargo trucks coming from A. Bonifacio Street and bound for Quezon City should take Edsa.

To come to Manila, buses and trucks should pass on Espana, Nicanor Reyes Street, and CM Recto Avenue.

Provincial buses and trucks from Divisoria bound for Camanava and Quezon City must take CM Recto Avenue, left on Nicanor Reyes and go toward Espana.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday ordered the deployment of traffic enforcers on roads around bus terminals, major intersections and roads leading to Metro Manila cemeteries starting 4 a.m. of Nov. 1.

Abalos also suspended the color-coding scheme for private vehicles from Oct. 31 to Nov. 1.

The MMDA's traffic management plan would be implementing the following re-routing schemes

in these areas:

Northern District

● La Loma Cemetery. Public utility vehicles (buses not included) will be allowed on Rizal Avenue Extension but not beyond 2nd Avenue. Light vehicles can park at the Shell and Caltex stations but not on the median island of Rizal Avenue.

● Caloocan Cemetery. Vehicles will not be allowed to enter Mabini Street from Sangandaan Junction. Buses, jeepneys and tricycles from Malabon plying the Sangandaan Junction will not be allowed to enter Caloocan. Julian Felipe is the alternate route.

● One way streets in Caloocan City are Julian Felipe (southbound), Gen. San Miguel (westbound to Torres Bugallon and northbound to A. Mabini), Torres Bugallon (northbound from A. Bato St.), E. Jacinto (southbound from A. Mabini), Plaridel Street. (eastbound from A. Mabini to Torres Bugallon).

Southern District

● Manila Memorial Park and the Loyola Memorial Park. No changes in the traffic flow along Sucat Road on Nov. 1. Designated alternate route from South Expressway to Sucat is via Dona Soledad-Bicutan route. From Las Pinas and other southern areas, motorists should take the BF Homes/Aguirre Extension route and exit at President Avenue. The friendship route via Gatchalian-Evacom area could also be used.

● Cementina Cemetery. Cementina Road will be one way from Aurora Boulevard to Pasay Road. From Makati to Pasay, recommended alternative route from Pasay Road is left on Edison toward Buendia.

● Sgt. Mariano Cemetery. Don Carlos Revilla will be closed to traffic. Edang Street will be one-way from Edsa to Tramo.

● South Cemetery. J.P. Rizal will be two-way between Makati Avenue and Trabaho Street, but will remain one-way from Pasong Tamo to Trabaho. South Avenue will be closed between J.P. Rizal and Metropolitan Avenue and also Vito Cruz between South Avenue and Zapote.

Eastern District

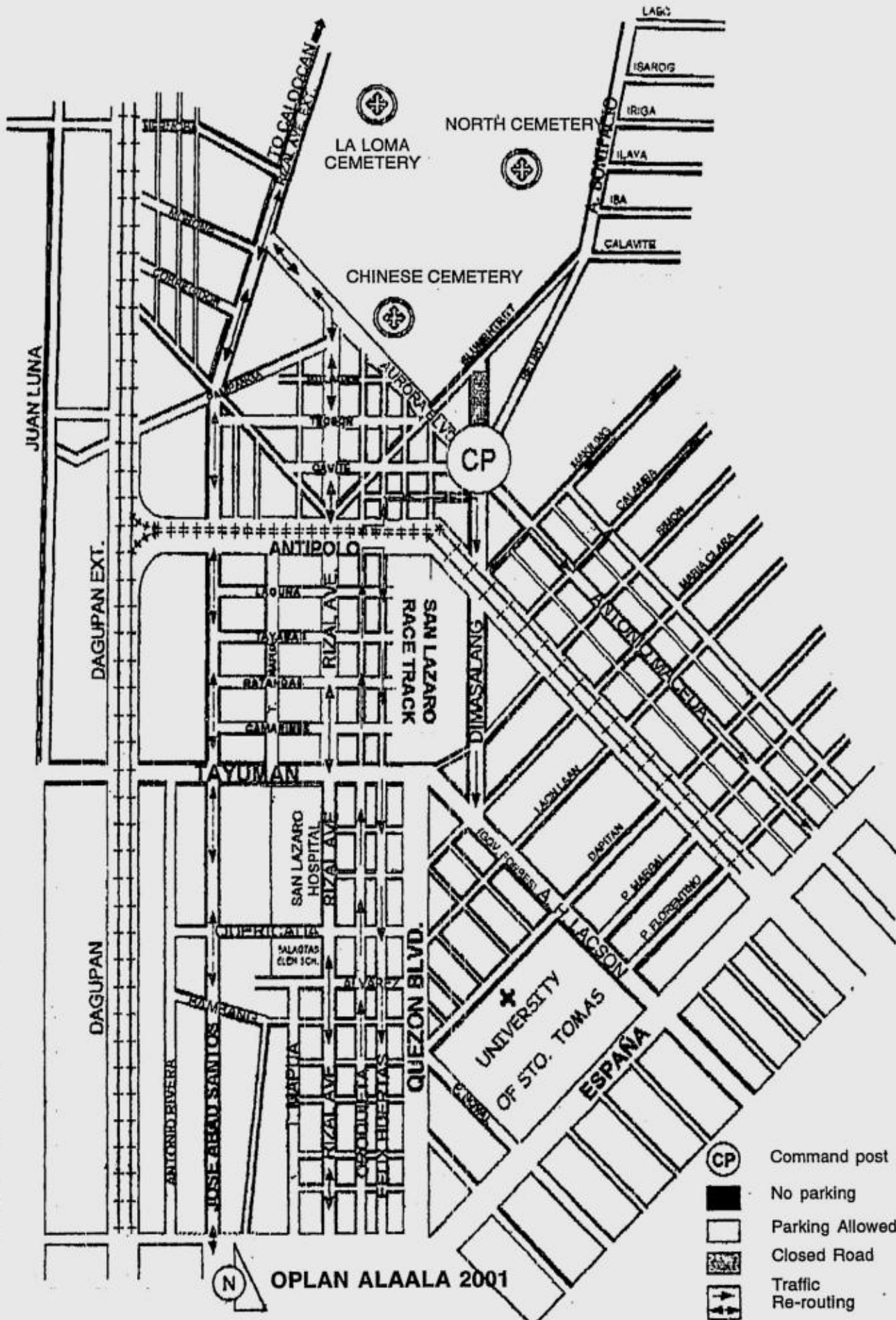
● Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City. A. Bonifacio Avenue shall be made a one-way street from Gen. Julian Cruz Street to J.P. Rizal. This becomes the point of entry to LMP. The point of exit will be through A. Bonifacio Avenue and J.P. Rizal. J.P. Rizal will be made one-way from A. Bonifacio Avenue to E. dela Paz Street. Marcos Highway will remain two-way.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Jr. and Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo ordered their police officials to ensure smooth traffic flow on major roads leading to the cities' cemeteries.

Quezon City has seven cemeteries; Caloocan has four.

In Mandaluyong City, Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. has ordered the renovation of the Aglipayan and Catholic cemeteries.

Portable toilets will be set up beginning on Wednesday through Sunday.



Missing since '98

CRISANTO Docot Juan, 22, and a resident of San Roque, Bacon, Sorsogon, has been missing since March 1998.

If you have any information on his whereabouts, please see or call Edgar Docot at 262 H. Teresa St., Sta. Mesa, Manila, tel. 713-3593, or Carliito Juan at 531-8419.



JUAN

2 cops charged with QC ambush

(From page A19)

the two suspects to CPD investigators, according to CPD sources.

About 9:45 p.m. on Oct. 18, Nolly Sotoza, his live-in partner Imelda Olan, and his cousin Maher Sotoza were on their way home from Greenhills, San Juan when Cervano, Santos and other men blocked the path of Sotoza's Ford Expedition and Toyota FX on Sta. Cecilia Street in New Manila, Quezon City.

Sotoza, an employee of the House of Representatives and a trader of cellular phones, was transporting two vans filled with cell phones at

the time, police said.

When he saw the roadblock, Sotoza reportedly opened fire and hit Rusit. In the ensuing exchange, the suspects shot and wounded Sotoza.

Sotoza managed to drive himself to the nearby St. Luke's Hospital and survived.

But his cousin Maher was inside the FX when the suspects commandeered the vehicle filled with cell phones and accessories.

Maher was later found in Las Pinas City with a bullet in the head, police said.

According to the witness, Rusit

left him at a gasoline station in Bacoor, Cavite about 6 p.m. on Oct. 18.

Rusit reportedly instructed the witness to wait for him there since they would be coming back later that night to fetch him.

About 10 p.m., the policemen reportedly returned to the gas station but the witness was surprised to see Rusit with a gunshot wound.

The witness said they went to the SAF headquarters in Laguna. While there, he reportedly overheard Cervano and Santos planning how they would "get rid" of Rusit.

Apparently, the two policemen

thought Rusit's condition could put the suspects in danger, the witness told investigators.

Worried that he would be killed next, the witness said he escaped as soon as he had the chance and went into hiding.

He contacted an official of the CPD and detailed how Cervano and Santos killed Rusit.

With the information, CPD investigators got in touch with Sotoza who verified that Rusit, Cervano and Santos were among those who ambushed him and killed his cousin Maher.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 30, 2001
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:

Gospel:

Jesus continued speaking. "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? Imagine a person who has taken a mustard seed and planted it in the garden. The seed has grown and become like a small tree, so that the birds of the air shelter in its branches."

And Jesus said again, "What is the kingdom of God like? Imagine a woman who has taken yeast and hidden it in three measures of flour until it is all leavened."

Commentary

The mustard seed is small, buried and hidden underneath the soil. This is the image of Jesus and his ministry. Jesus begins with a small group of Twelve. He is not an international celebrity. He is unknown to the world. Yet, his work from humble beginnings grows into the kingdom that history cannot now ignore. The leaven which is used in making a dough is very little compared to the flour. Yet, the dough expands by its action. Note also that the leaven looks the same as the flour. The lesson is that even a minority of Christians can transform the world. The power of God in us does not work by numbers but by the quality of our life as Christians.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW/ADMINISTRATIVE LAW)—Doctrine of separation of powers/Quasi-judicial functions—Quasi-judicial functions is a term which applies to the actions, discretion, etc. of public administrative officers or bodies, who are required to investigate facts, or ascertain the existence of facts, hold hearings, and draw conclusions from them, as a basis for their official action and to exercise discretion of a judicial nature. Administrative agencies are not considered courts; they are neither part of the judicial system nor are they deemed judicial tribunals. The doctrine of separation of powers reposes 3 great powers into its 3 branches—the legislative, the executive and the judiciary—each department being co-equal and coordinate, and supreme in its own sphere. Accordingly, the executive department may not, by its own fiat, impose the judgment of one of its own agencies, upon the judiciary. Indeed, under the expanded jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, it is empowered "to determine whether or not there has been grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the government." [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, United Residents of Dominican Hills, Inc. v. Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems, G.R. No. 135945, March 7, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

GMA's pique on rumors understandable

THE Sunday night bombing of a crowded plaza in Zamboanga City Sunday night that killed five people showed once again the failure of military intelligence.

It's the job of military intelligence to gather advance information about plots to bomb crowded areas, attack military camps or stage a coup d'etat by bandits, secessionists or rightist or leftist rebels.

True, the military had warned that the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf might stage attacks and bombings to divert the attention of pursuing military and police forces. But military intelligence should have pinpointed the specific target area so security forces could patrol it.

The pique displayed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and later by her spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, over media reports of a coup was understandable.

Which president or any public official, for that matter, would have been pleased by coup rumors being dangled by the media? The publication gave the rumors some degree of credence.

In this small town, rumors of a coup are a dime a dozen.

When coup rumors spread, there will never be a coup.

GMA, however, was also to blame for dignifying the coup rumors her-

self when she gave an audience to two officers of the shadowy Young Officers Union (YOU). She could have talked to them without the publicity.

YOU is already a discredited organization within the police and military. Only a handful believe in the group.

I have it on good authority that one of the YOU officers who talked to the President, Supt. Rafael Cardeno, had gone the rounds trying to convince young fellow officers to join a destabilization move against the administration. But the officers he approached were not convinced.

PNP Director-General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. was hard put answering reporters' questions on how he felt about being named as the next PNP chief by the President.

"I will be a hypocrite if I say I am not happy, but there's still a long way to go," he said. "It's good to hear that I will be the next PNP chief. But for now, I'd rather do my job, work as a team and wait for the final designation."

That's Ebdane. He's such a low-profile and self-effacing officer he is oftentimes misunderstood.

In the past, I was mistaken about Ebdane, who replaced Panfilo Lacson as chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, now renamed National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force.

When he was still director of the Western Police District (WPD), I mistook Ebdane's avoiding media people

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



for arrogance. I learned later it was shyness.

Unlike his predecessor, Lacson, Ebdane works hard but doesn't want publicity.

A syndicate at the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) composed of labor arbiters and sheriffs was exposed recently when they were arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in San Fernando, Pampanga in an entrapment operation.

The NLRC officials were about to receive P200,000 from a Chinoy businessman who had a pending case with the commission. The amount was the third installment of a P1-million bribe demanded by the syndicate from the businessman.

I called up NLRC chief Roy Seneres for reaction and he was fuming. "I am trying my best to clean up the NLRC but there are still bad eggs, Mon," Seneres said.

It was the misfortune of the NLRC officials that their victim sought the aid of broadcast journalist Waldy Carbonell, administrator of

Carbonell Law Associates.

The Rotary Clubs of General Santos City have reacted to the item in this space which criticized their alleged cancellation of a joint meeting that would have been attended by Col. Victor Corpus and Mary "Rosebud" Ong as guest speakers.

For the sake of fairness and objectivity, let's hear the other side.

Leonardo W. Teves, assistant governor of Rotary Zone 3-A, District 3860 in the city, said in a letter:

There was never any cancellation of a joint meeting since there was no meeting to be cancelled. "There are eight Rotary Clubs in our zone and none of the club presidents invited Col. Corpus or Mary Ong as guest speakers."

General Santos City Mayor Pedro B. Acharon (not Antonio as reported) did not persuade the sponsoring club not to go on with any meeting. The decision to convene a meeting rests with the Rotarians. "The mayor cannot do anything about it."

Rotarians in the city have worked hand in hand with all the city mayors past or present—from Ton-ing Acharon, Domingo Lagare, Lita Nunez, Adel Antonino to Jun Acharon—because "we don't allow politics to come into the picture." Rotarians in the city work hand in hand with present and past administrations because of their concern for the needy.

4 Antipolo men shot dead, not tortured, say probers

BY NELSON F. FLORES

ANTIPOLO City police yesterday disputed published reports that the four farmers who were killed by members of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force on Oct. 21 were tortured.

Supt. Reynaldo Macalalad, Antipolo City police chief, said an official autopsy report showed that Raul Maguiza, 38; Dominador Aniceto, 36; Emiliano de la Rosa, 48, and his 26-year-old son Reynaldo all died due to multiple gunshot wounds.

Macalalad said the autopsy report also noted that the bruises on the bodies of the farmers were caused by shock associated with the shooting.

The police chief, however, stressed that despite the autopsy report, there is enough evidence to warrant the filing of a criminal case before the Antipolo prosecutor's office against Senior Insp. Ericson Dilag, PO2 Ronald Cuya, PO2

Ernesto Bautista, PO2 Gatmar Jatalis, PO2 Pablo de la Cruz, PO1 Glen Salcedo and PO1 Crispin Culinio, all members of the PNP-SAF based in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan Taguig.

Macalalad explained that his men filed the lesser charges of multiple homicide against the suspects due to the recommendations made by government lawyers who cited the evidence at hand, contrary to his earlier decision to file multiple murder charges against the policemen.

"However, there is still a chance that the charges would be upgraded to multiple murder if the results of the paraffin tests, ballistic examinations and the medico-legal report prove the degree of the culpability of the suspects," Macalalad said.

Antipolo City prosecutor Mario Luna said his office would still conduct a preliminary investigation before the charges filed against the seven PNP-SAF

men could be elevated to the court.

He said the investigation would take at least three weeks to complete.

The PNP fact-finding committee led by Senior Supt. Medardo Apacible, PNP Regional Police Office 4 deputy director, has yet to release its findings on the alleged massacre of four farmers in Sitio Casunugan in Antipolo's Barangay San Jose.

Records showed that Dilag and his men were on a mission to reconnoiter a suspected NPA training camp in Sitio Casunugan, a remote mountainous area near the boundary of Rizal and Quezon provinces when they accidentally encountered four men armed with rifles.

The four farmers allegedly engaged Dilag and his men in a gun battle and were killed in the process, a charge vehemently denied by the victims' relatives.

Joel Egco, a nephew of Maguiza and a reporter of Manila Standard, said the

four men were simple farmers who were on a hunting spree. He insisted there are signs that the victims were tortured before being shot at close range.

Egco, who is the president of the PNP Press Corps, noted that contrary to the claims of the seven suspects that the victims used automatic rifles in the gun battle, only four shotguns were recovered at the alleged encounter site.

"It appears that the four victims had only one bullet each," Egco said. "How could they (the victims) have engaged the suspects in a shootout?" He said all four suffered gunshot wounds in the feet, which is highly unusual if an encounter really took place. He said gun battle wounds, as recent police and military experience in Basilan showed, are usually located in the head and torso.

Barangay San Jose chair Edilberto Lagasca also denied that the victims were communist rebels.



SUSPECT Villan (right) explains before NBI Deputy Director Nasol. ERIK ARAZAS

Court nullifies appointment of BJMP official

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court yesterday nullified the appointment of a Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) official earlier named by President Macapagal-Arroyo to head the agency.

In a seven-page decision, RTC Judge Modesto Juanson of Branch 216 said JPM Senior Supt. Josue Engaño failed to meet the minimum requirement for

the position of BJMP director.

Engaño said Juanson's decision confirmed the judge's "bias and partiality."

The court pointed out that under the law, the BJMP director should have at least one year experience as chief superintendent and should be a career executive service officer.

Although Engaño is a member of the Philippine Bar, he was still not qualified for the position as Republic Act No. 1080 gives him only a second level eligibility.

"Viewed from the foregoing consid-

erations, it appears that respondent Engaño does not possess the minimum qualifications required by law for the position of (BJMP) director and as such his appointment thereto is declared null and void," the court said.

The decision was based on the petition earlier filed by Chief Supt. Arturo Alit, the bureau's former officer in charge.

Alit contended that Engaño's appointment was "highly irregular and illegal and arbitrarily done in violation and defiance" of laws.

With the nullification of Engaño's appointment and with no valid appointment to the contested position, the court said Alit's earlier designation as officer in charge of the bureau remained "unless expressly revoked by the President or a permanent and valid appointment is made."

In a press statement, Engaño said: "I am saddened by Juanson's decision but this is only a temporary setback as I remain confident that the appointment extended to me by the President will be ultimately upheld."

Tabloid publisher charged with robbery, extortion

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed robbery extortion charges against People's Brigada tabloid publisher Leo Villan after he allegedly threatened to expose a rape committed inside the Classmate KTV in Quezon City if management did not give him P500,000.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Villan, 38, was charged before the Manila City prosecutor's office. Villan's co-accused include his lawyer Romeo C. Manalo, 50, and the alleged rape victim, a 17-year-old guest relations officer (GRO) at the KTV.

Agent Mar E. Panganiban of the NBI Special Task Force said Villan introduced himself as a reporter to Classmate manager Richard A. Fernandez.

Villan allegedly informed Fernandez that a businessman named Marion Tan raped the GRO in one of Classmate's VIP rooms. Panganiban said Villan threatened

Fernandez to expose the alleged rape to his friends in media and to the NBI and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group if he would not be given P500,000.

Villan later phoned Fernandez and told him to go to the Manila Hotel and then to a seafood restaurant near the Quirino Grandstand and finally to Manalo's office at the Don Santiago building in Ermita, Manila, the investigator said.

Panganiban said Villan was arrested around 6 p.m. after agents caught him red handed with the marked money. The NBI also arrested the alleged rape victim who was then signing an affidavit withdrawing his rape complaint.

Villan denied he tried to blackmail Classmate. "I did not receive anything," he said. "I did not even touch the money because I felt there might be an entrapment operation. The story was reversed."

Philip C. Tubeza

PRSP accepting nominations for 37th Anvil Awards

THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines is now accepting nominations for the 37th Anvil Awards to be held in February 2002.

The PRSP, the oldest and leading professional organization of recognized public relations practitioners in the country, has been giving out the longest-running PR awards in the Philippines.

Called the "Oscars" of public rela-

tions, the Anvil Awards are the most prestigious awards given in recognition of outstanding corporate programs and tools of public relations.

The Anvil puts a premium on the broadness of programs and tools as they maximize the power of communication in corporate social responsibility programs, the beneficial impact on society, and lasting and genuine progress for target groups. Packaging, presentation and

design are minimum requirements for programs and tools.

A board of jurors whose identities are made known only on awards night will judge the entries. The board is composed of well-known and highly respected multi-sectoral representatives of the private and government sectors, top-caliber PR professionals, and members of the academe, the youth and other allied sectors.

Public relations programs designed and carried out between Oct. 31, 2000 and Oct. 31, 2001 may be entered for the awards. Entry forms are available at the PRSP Secretariat at 20-B San Mateo St., Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City. Entries will be submitted to the Anvil Award Committee c/o the Secretariat at the same address on or before Oct. 31, 2001. Details may be obtained by calling 636-3242 or 636-3243.



City of Manila Traffic Re-routing Scheme for All Saints Day

In preparation for the heavy volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic leading to cemeteries, The City of Manila will implement a traffic re-routing plan starting at 4 am on November 1, 2001, and shall be enforced until such time that the volume of vehicular traffic in the vicinity of the four cemeteries in Manila, which are the North, South, La Loma and Chinese cemeteries, becomes normal.

Starting at 12:00 midnight of October 31, 2001, all cemetery gates shall be closed to vehicular traffic and limited to the use of pedestrians.

I. PARKING REGULATIONS

A) DESIGNATED NO PARKING AREAS (both sides)

- 1) Blumentritt from Rizal Avenue to A. Bonifacio St.
- 2) Dimasalang St. from Dimasalang Bridge to Blumentritt, both sides of Rizal Avenue extension from the Kalookan City boundary to Jose Abad Santos
- 3) A. Maceda St. from Calamba St. to Dimasalang St.
- 4) R. Papa St., Limay St. from R. Papa St. to Hermosa St.
- 5) Hermosa St. from Jose Abad Santos St. to Limay St.
- 6) Morang St. from Jose Abad Santos to Limay St.

B) DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS (both sides, parallel parking only)

- 1) Aurora Blvd. from Dimasalang St. to Rizal Ave. extension
- 2) Tecson St. from Rizal Ave. to Aurora Blvd., Pedro Guevarra St. from Blumentritt to Aurora Blvd.
- 3) Felix Huertas St. from Blumentritt to the Chinese Cemetery

II. VEHICULAR TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING

1) All light vehicles coming from Kalookan, Navotas and Malabon by way of Rizal Ave. extension shall go straight to Jose Abad Santos St. or Rizal Avenue to their point of destination.

- 2) Public utility jeepneys (PUJs) with Balut-Blumentritt route shall cross Juan Luna St. to Solis St., right to Jose Abad Santos St., left to New Antipolo St., right to T. Mapa St., right to Old Antipolo St., right to Jose Abad Santos St. and back to their point of origin.
- 3) All PUJs north bound on Dimasalang, right to Makiling St., right to A. Maceda St., right to Dapitan St. and back to the point of origin.
- 4) All PUJs along Orquieta St. going to North Cemetery via Antipolo St. shall turn right to Felix Huertas St. and back to point of origin.
- 5) Cargo trucks and provincial buses coming from A. Bonifacio St. in the north shall take EDSA, to Quezon City and find their way to Manila by way of España, Nicanor Reyes St. and C.M. Recto Ave. Cargo trucks and provincial buses north bound to Quezon City, Kalookan and Malabon coming from Divisoria shall take C.M. Recto Ave., left Nicanor Reyes St. towards España to point of destination.

III. ROUTES OF "FOR HIRE" VEHICLES

A) FOR PU JEEPNEYS

- 1) From Manila
 - a) To Calookan City — take Rizal Ave. extension
 - b) To Quezon City — take Cavite St. to A. Maceda or Calamba St.
 - c) To western Manila — take Tayuman St., Antipolo North or Solis St.
- 2) To eastern Manila — take A. Maceda St. (eastward)
- 3) From Perimeter Of Cemeteries
 - a) To Quiapo area — (route 1) take A. Maceda St. to Dapitan St. (route 2) take Rizal Ave., left to Cavite St., right to Karapatan St., left to T. Mapa St., right to Dimasalang St. or take Rizal Ave., right to Cavite St., left to Mapa St. To Tondo area — Take Tayuman St., Antipolo or Solis Sts.
 - b) To Tondo Area — Take Tayuman St., Antipolo or Solis Sts.
 - c) To Sta. Cruz area — take Felix Huertas St. or Rizal Ave.
 - d) To Kalookan, Navotas and Malabon — take Rizal Ave. extension/Jose Abad Santos, thru Solis or Antipolo Sts.
 - e) To Quezon City — take A. Maceda St., Makiling and España

B) FOR CARGO TRUCKS AND PROVINCIAL BUSES

1) From Manila And Back

- a) To Kalookan, Navotas and Malabon — take C.M. Recto Ave., Nicanor Reyes St. to España, and vice-versa or take Road 10 north-

bound

- b) To Quezon City — take C.M. Recto St., Nicanor Reyes St. to España, and vice-versa
- c) To Manila East — take C.M. Recto Ave., Nicanor Reyes St. to España, right to dela Fuente St. to Ramon Magsaysay Blvd., and vice-versa.
- d) Inter-urban buses to North Cemetery shall take Loon-Loon St., left to Maceda St., while those bound for Kalookan, Navotas and Malabon shall take Jose Abad Santos, left Antipolo St. to Honorio Lopez or Road 10.

C) TRICYCLES AND CALESAS

- 1) Tricycles and calesas coming from Gagalangin area shall take Hermosa St., right to Limay St., left to Torres Bugallon St., cross Abad Santos St. to Solis St., right to Lico St., right to Cavite St., left to Tindalo St., right to Antipolo St. and back to point of origin.
- 2) Tricycles and calesas coming from the Tondo area shall take Tayuman St., right A. Lacson St., left to Maria Clara St., cross Dimasalang St., right to M. de la Fuente St., left to Loon-Loon St., cross A. Maceda St., left to Instrucion St. up to Makiling St. where they shall unload passengers then left to Makiling St., left to A. Maceda St., right to Dapitan St. and back to point of origin
- 3) Tricycles and calesas coming from the Sampaloc area shall cross España towards A. Maceda St.

D) FOR INTER-URBAN AREAS

- 1) To North Cemetery or Blumentritt — take Loon-Loon St., left A. Maceda St.
- 2) To Kalookan, Navotas, Malabon — take Jose Abad Santos, left Antipolo St. to Honorio Lopez or Road 10, North Harbor

IV. LOADING AND UNLOADING AREAS

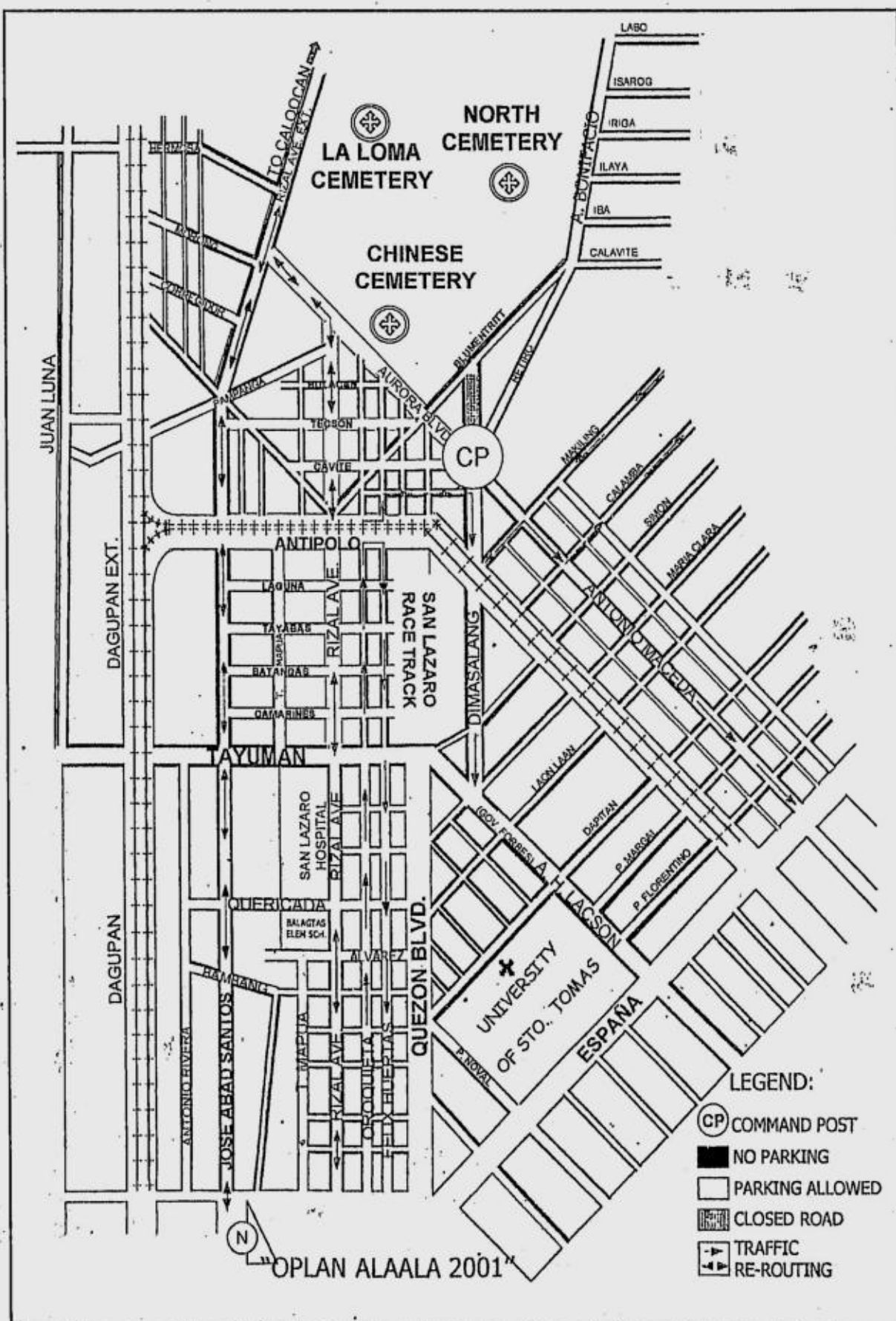
- 1) For Kalookan, Navotas and Malabon — Jose Abad Santos corner Rizal Ave. extension, 2nd Ave. corner Rizal Avenue extension, Rizal Avenue corner Cavite St., and T. Mapa corner Antipolo St.
- 2) For Quiapo — A. Maceda near Makiling St., Rizal Avenue and Cavite St. and Dimasalang St. near Tiago St.
- 3) For Sta. Cruz — T. Mapa St. corner Antipolo St., Felix Huertas St. and Antipolo St., and Rizal Avenue and Blumentritt St.

V. OTHER PROVISIONS

- 1) At 12:00 midnight of October 31, 2001, the gates of the North, La Loma and Chinese Cemeteries shall be closed to vehicular traffic and all vehicles inside the said cemeteries shall be prohibited to go out except in emergency cases. Likewise, vehicles may be prohibited to enter any streets or portion thereof within the perimeter of said cemeteries to ease any traffic build-up that may occur.
- 2) A. Bonifacio St. (Quezon City) shall be closed to vehicular traffic except for crossing vehicles coming out of the North Cemetery thru Gate 2 & 3. Said street shall be for the exclusive use of pedestrians. All vehicles making their exit on Gate 2 shall turn right on A. Bonifacio St., left Iriga St. towards Rotiro St. and proceed northward. Vehicles making their exit on Gate 3 shall only take a left turn on A. Bonifacio St. towards the north.
- 3) Inter-urban buses shall not be allowed to traverse along Dimasalang St. from A.H. Lacson St. (Gov. Forbes St.) to A. Maceda St.
- 4) Parking of vehicles shall be strictly prohibited particularly on the sidewalks of Rizal Avenue Extension adjacent to the Chinese Cemetery and all access roads within the North and La Loma Cemeteries except in allowed parking areas.
- 5) Only emergency vehicles shall be allowed entry to the cemeteries and any restricted areas at all times.

VI. OTHER RESTRICTIONS

- 1) Bladed weapons of any kind shall not be allowed inside the cemeteries.
- 2) Alcoholic beverages of any kind shall not be allowed inside the cemeteries.
- 3) No gambling shall be allowed in any of the cemeteries.
- 4) Playing of loud music, rowdy behavior and other disturbances that may affect the solemnity of the occasion is also prohibited.



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SM CITY MANILA 521840 - TRAINING DAY - LEGALLY BLONDE - AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - AMERICAN PIE 2 - THE BODY - BUBBLE BOY - THE ONE - PRINCESS DIARIES - JAY & SILENT BOB - HIYAS SA PARAISO - MANANABAS	SM ILOILO 339482 - MARITAL RAPE - CLOSED - AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - ST. FRANCISVILLE - MR. NICE GUY - OSMOSIS JONES - CLOSED - NAKED NIGHTS
SM MEGAMALL 8331011 • 8332401 - THE BODY - JAY & SILENT BOB - TRAINING DAY - THE ONE - LEGALLY BLONDE - HIYAS SA PARAISO - AMERICAN PIE 2 - SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO - DOS EKIS - BUBBLE BOY - MANANABAS - PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS	SM PAMPANGA 710015 - AMERICAN PIE 2 - NAKED NIGHTS - DOS EKIS - THE BODY - SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO - DOS EKIS
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New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA - tel. 244.4619 - DOS EKIS - THE ONE - TRAINING DAY - RESERVE - RESERVE - HIYAS	Fourstep (Cavite) tel. (046) 416.2385 CLOSED	Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel. (046) 458.1657 - HULI SA AKTO - MANANABAS - DOS EKIS	Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel. (043) 981.0790 - NAKED NIGHT - OSMOSIS JONES - AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - HULI SA AKTO
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NOVALICHES 835-3229 to 31 - TRAINING DAY - LEGALLY BLONDE - LEGALLY BLONDE - TRAINING DAY - AMERICAN PIE 2 - AMERICAN PIE 2 - DOS EKIS - DOS EKIS	IMUS (046) 471-8188 - TRAINING DAY - DOS EKIS - LEGALLY BLONDE - THE BODY - MANANABAS - AMERICAN PIE 2
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101 ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 MANANABAS ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY) 13 DAYS ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) AMERICAN PIE ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) AMERICA'S SWEETHEART ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) EXTREME FORCE ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) THE HOLE FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) NAKED NIGHTS FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) MANANABAS FIESTA CARNIVAL CLOSED FOR RENOVATION NEW FRONTIER CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	MANILA EASTERN MAXIM CLOSED MIRAMAR IRA / CLIMAX ODEON DOS EKIS ODEON-2 TRAINING DAY ROBEN HIYAS SA PARAISO TANDEM-1 SEX MEDUSA TANDEM-2 SEX EDUCATION TIMES BROTHERHOOD / STOP
QUEZON CITY ACT-1 SENSUAL ISLAND ACT-2 KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT ACT-3 CLOSED ACT-4 CLOSED CORONET-2 ORIGINAL SIN QUEZON-1 HIYAS SA PARAISO REMAR DOS EKIS REMAR-2 MANANABAS	NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA A MANANABAS B NAKED NIGHT C
MANDALUYONG CITY SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 to 70 CINEMA-1 LEGALLY BLONDE CINEMA-2 TRAINING DAY	CAINTA RIZAL STA. LUCIA EAST (881-5401 to 19) CINEMA-1 MARITAL RAPE CINEMA-2 NAKED NIGHTS CINEMA-3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS CINEMA-5 (DTS) 13 DAYS CINEMA-6 SISID CINEMA-7 LA VIDA ROSA CINEMA-8 DOS EKIS CINEMA-9 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE 2 CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TRAINING DAY CINEMA-11 (SDDS) LEGALLY BLONDE CINEMA-12 THE BODY CINEMA-14 MANANABAS CINEMA-15 DOS EKIS
LORES CINEMA-2 CLOSED CINEMA-3 CLOSED	POWER PLANT CINEMA CINEMA-1 BUBBLE BOY CINEMA-2 JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK CINEMA-3 LEGALLY BLONDE CINEMA-4 THE ONE CINEMA-5 TRAINING DAY CINEMA-6 LEGALLY BLONDE
UNIWIDE METROMALL (LAS PINAS) CINEMA-1 CINEMA-2 CINEMA-4	UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL (PARAÑAQUE) CINEMA-1 ISANG LAHI ISANG DUGO CINEMA-2 LARUANG BUHAY CINEMA-4 AKO ANG LALAGOT

A 22

DJ John Robinson

'Planet Love' at The Fort

PUT on your wackiest and wildest Halloween getups tomorrow night, Oct. 31 and party on at the NBC Tent at The Fort for the most massive all-Hallows eve celebration, "Planet Love @ The Tent," starting 10 p.m.

Presented by Joey @ 92.3 3 FM and NBC Entertainment, "Planet Love @ The Tent" aims to eclipse last year's "Cream: Live @ The Fort" by bringing in world-class DJs, the best international music, the latest laser lights and the most unique, never-before-seen graphics from Japan's top visual jockey.

To complete the "Planet Love" experience, Joey treats partygoers to free beer, food and mineral water.

For the best Halloween-clad chap/babe of the night, A free trip to Tokyo, with VIP passes to Planet Love events await the best Halloween-clad chap/babe!

Leading the cast of "Planet Love @ The Tent" is international DJ John Robinson, the man behind the concept and success of the Japan-based party brand. With a musical taste that stretches from progressive house to trance and hard house, John has successfully taken the notoriously hard-to-please Tokyo club scene to another level, with his after-hours party that gathers 1,600 sweaty clubbers from 5:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. everyday at the famous Velfarre Club.

Also set to pump the crowd are Japanese DJ Koutarou and Manila's pride, DJ Robert Villaluz of 78 Orange.

Backing the DJs up is Japanese visual jockey Turu, whose cutting-edge visuals have made him a byword among the clubbing elite. Blending a wide array of computer-generated images live, his famous "visual dreamscapes" provide the perfect backdrop for a party of such magnitude as "Planet Love."

Inquiries are welcome at 882INBC.

Costume party at Mindave

PADI'S Mindave Restaurant Bar holds a Halloween mask and costume party tonight along Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

The unique, three-storey edifice will come alive with spectacular fun games, exciting prizes, live band music by X Project of Star Records, foam rave party in the open-air garden, guest celebrities, top DJs and models, free drinks from Budweiser, Bacardi and Del Monte.

Padi's Mindave owner and writer Wilson Lee Flores said there will be a big discount on grilled foods, barbecues and sisig dishes.

For inquiries, call 453-0080 or 414-4930 to 34.

Martin to make dreams come true

ON Saturday, Nov. 10, 2001 at 9:00 p.m., the concert king, Martin Nievera, will perform live at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati.

Martin is donating his time and talent for a good cause, to benefit the Francis Padua-Papica and the Vince Hizon foundations.

"One of the reasons why I'm so interested in this project is because I am given the chance to give back," says Martin. "I wasn't the best of students, but putting all things in its proper place, I was the student who tried the hardest. Well, at least I thought I did."

"When I was a kid growing up going to different schools here and there, I took a lot of things for granted, like the efforts and money spent for my textbooks, pencils, musical instruments, even my favorite crayons. Many times I found myself sitting at my desk daydreaming rather than studying. Yes, that was me. Now I have a chance to rewind the tape a bit and look closer at the efforts put into the educational programs of schools just like mine. Only difference was, I was blessed with a family that could afford the things some take for granted."

"Some people may not be as blessed as others, but that doesn't mean they are not as deserving. Some just don't have the luxury of choice. Education is something you should take seriously. Usually the can-afford don't really know the essence of what serious education can offer. Oh sure, there are some exceptions, but that's because they can afford to be exceptions."

"Here in our own backyard, we have so many children who don't have the luxury to be an exception. Now is my chance to be an instrument for the children who deserve the same educational benefits any child of God deserves. Through the Vince Hizon foundation, I am

DOLLYWOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

now able to help open the window of opportunity for my less fortunate but most deserving brothers and sisters.

"If my song can provide pride, passion and funds to better educate the future leaders of the world, then my song becomes an instrument. If my song can move people to generosity and compassion, then my song becomes magic. If my song opens doors and makes dreams come true, then I want to sing that song again and again. And I will do just that."

Martin will be joined in the Captain's Bar show by Louie Ocampo and other friends.

Tickets are available at National Bookstore Araneta Super Branch and Quezon Avenue branch, Deli Shop Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Music One Stores at Megamall and Glorietta.

Clarification

PLEASE allow me to clarify my item about Dingdong Dantes' now-he-sees-her-now-he-doesn't girlfriend, Chinna Jocson.

Chinna did not categorically say that something was going on between Dingdong and her when a TV crew interviewed her. What she said was, "We're good friends."

Not that worn-out show biz answer again. Still, it caught the ire of Dingdong because he reportedly gave her strict instructions to be mum about the issue.

If there were an award for playing the field, Dingdong would win hands down. He seems to feel he is

God's gift to women. If I were Chinna or Antoinette Taus, I would return or exchange for a classier gift. Snap out of it, girls!

Too many heartaches ago, I, too, was a willing victim of denial kings like Dingdong. Willing, ready but emotionally unable to sustain such a lopsided romance. Believe me, it's only good while it "lasts."

Halloween treats

FOR A pre-Halloween treat for lunar-powered party animals like me, join Ryan Agoncillo and his cool partners James Fabros and Helen at Mazzo (Libis) on Oct. 30 in "Arave-ian Night."

Try their Bloody Vampire drink and Arabian pica-pica.

"We will have belly dancers and I'm surely gonna learn some moves from them dance like I've never danced before," says Ryan.

On Oct. 31, check out Friends, Bojo Molina's bar at St. Francis Square, for "Mimic Night." Bojo and his best buddy and business partner Albert will surely cook up something spine-tingling.

Friends will be giving out Halloween treats, no tricks! Last time, they gave away Palm Pilots. What could be next in store for their friendly creatures of the night this time?

For feedback, e-mail web@high2000@yahoo.com

SM ADVANCE SCREENING CINEMA

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JOHN HURT

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE"

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING NOVEL BY LOUIE DE BERNIERES

Invitational SM Premiere on Oct. 30, 2001 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 1

MTRCB PG13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981410-11

BUBBLE BOY - GP 11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40	JAY & SILENT BOB S.B. - R 18 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
THE ONE - P 13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10	TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 12:30, 2:40, 4:50

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.

Bubble Boy

MEET JIMMY LIVINGSTON (JAKE GYLLENHAAL), a 17-year-old kid who has all the normal experiences of a boy growing up, except he lives in a plastic bubble.

Then he falls in love, but the girl he wants will marry another—if he does not stop the wedding in time. So, Jimmy builds a bubble suit.

The movie is an outrageously funny road trip across the U.S., where Jimmy meets bikers, rock stars, freaks and a cult, racing against time and his parents, who are determined to bring him back to the safety of his "bubble room."

A hilarious coming-of-age comedy for anyone who has ever been in love.

LOOK OUT, WORLD, HERE COMES BUBBLE BOY!

OPENS IN CINEMAS ON NOV. 14

MTRCB R Restricted No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

GHOSTS OF MARS

Strictly for ADULTS

'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter

Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.

But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release.

OPENS TOMORROW

GO BLONDE @ AYALA CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Watch **LEGALLY BLONDE** @ AYALA CINEMAS

And win any of these Legally Blonde soundtrack, premium items from U by Rustans, Timezone Game Passes, Italianis' Gift Certificates & Massimo T-shirts & more!

PLUS! Join the LEGALLY BLONDE & Timezone Gold Card Launch Party featuring pop band Strawberry Fields on Oct. 26, 7pm @ Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby.

Don't miss the fun because exciting prizes & surprises are at stake!

LEGALLY BLONDE (MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13), with stars Reese Witherspoon, NOW SHOWING @ Ayala Cinemas!

Promo Period: Oct. 24 to Nov. 7, 2001. See leaflets for complete details. Per DTI-HCR Permit No. 1847. Series of 2001.

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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If God gave you a
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MTRCB RATING: PG13

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JET LI

THE ONE

MTRCB RATING: PG13

Tickets available on
October 29 (Mon)
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DONITA TURNS CONCERT ARTIST

MTV Asia veejay, actress, model and commercial endorser Donita Rose recently made her debut on the concert stage when she shared stellar billing with pop idol Gary Valenciano in "X-Static," at Araneta Coliseum. Donita has also been getting one acting offer after another. She recently starred in a four-episode series on GMA's "Larawan" and did "GMA Love Stories" with action star Bong Revilla Jr. Negotiations are underway for a two-picture deal with Star Cinema, one with Diether Ocampo to be directed by Laurice Guillen and another with Aga Muhlach. Donita has about six other offers from different film outfits.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

MTRCB RATING **PG-13**

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed, if accompanied by a parent or adult



All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner

Jet Li vs. Jet Li in 'THE ONE'

What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?

Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special effects-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."

The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

Mauna na! Sneak Preview TODAY!
-Regular Run Begins Nov. 7-

Harry Potter movie a hefty 2 1/2 hours

LONDON — There'll be no shortage of storytelling in the Harry Potter movie due for release next month, if it runs at its present length — a hefty 2 1/2 hours, Britain's film classification board says.

The Web site of the British Board of Film Classification says "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone," was submitted at 152 minutes and 13 seconds, and "the work was passed with no cuts made."

The board gave Harry and the Hogwarts gang a PG rating, which

means unaccompanied children of any age may watch, and that it should not disturb a child aged around 8 or older, but that parents are advised to consider whether it might upset younger or more sensitive children.

The first movie to be adapted from J.K. Rowling's hugely successful book series about students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, is due for release in Britain and the United States on Nov. 16.



DANIEL Radcliffe

Worst films ever made

MANY film awards and festivals celebrate the best that the movie world has to offer each year, but what about the worst films ever made? Do they just crumble and dribble away into sullen non-existence, or do they haunt their craven or hapless makers until their dying days?

It turns out that there are two awards that "honor" the loudest movies of the year, productions so awesomely or numbingly inept that they acquire a sort of negative cachet or reverse chic of their own.

The older awards are the Harvard Lampoon's Movie Worst, "honored" fitfully since 1939. With tongue fatuously in cheek, the oldest humor magazine in the United States annually names the 10 most banal or execrable movies of the year, and also hands out its worst acting awards, named in smirking "tribute" to Kirk Douglas and Natalie Wood.

In addition, the magazine also awards the Charles Manson Memorial Scalpel for worst editing, the Please-Don't-Put-Us-Through-DeMille-Again award for pretensions and failed screen spectaculars, and the Golden Glob for Yucky sex scenes.

The satirical "awards" love to deflate overblown cinematic ambitions that result in embarrassing melodramas, epics, literary adaptations and ostensibly "artistic" films.

You would think that the film people "cited" by the magazine would avoid the awarding ceremonies like the plague, but stars like Elizabeth Taylor and, yes, Natalie Wood have shown that they are good sports or cheerful masochists by going to Cambridge to receive their "trophy" (a hairy man in a gold lame) leotard) in person.

And now, the envelope, please? Some of the worst films and artists "honored" by the Harvard Lampoon include:

1990, "Darkman," Patrick Swayze ("Ghost," "Road House"), Bette Midler ("Beaches").

1992, "The Last of the Mohicans" and "A League of Their Own," Michael Douglas ("Basic Instinct") and Lorraine Bracco ("Medicine Man").

1994, "Speed," Eric Stoltz ("Naked in New York") and Moira Kelly ("With Honors").

Some other "winners" through the years: 1939, "20,000 Men a Year." 1940, "One Million B.C." 1941, "Wild Geese Calling." 1944, "Thousands Cheer." 1945, "The Enchanted Cottage." 1948, "Miracle of the Bells." 1949, "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes."

1950, "An American Guerilla in the Philippines." 1951, "Take Care of My Little Girl." 1952, "Son of Paleface." 1953, "Beneath the 12-Mile Reef." 1954, "Demetrius and the Gladiators." 1955, "Not As A Stranger." 1956, "The 10 Commandments." 1957, "Peyton Place."

It was also in 1957 that the Harvard Lampoon presented its first-ever "Worst Film of the Century" award ("given only once every hundred years"). The "winner": Otto Preminger's "Saint Joan."

That same year, the other "awardees" were: Worst actor, Rock Hudson in "A Farewell to Arms." Worst actress, Kim Novak in "Jeanne Eagels." Worst supporting actor, McGeorge Bundy in "To the Age That Is Waiting." Worst supporting actress, Joan Collins in "Island in the Sun."

In addition, the Suzy Parker Award for the most inauspicious male acting debut of the year went to Pat Boone for "Bernardine." And the Pat Boone Award for the most inauspicious female acting debut was won by Suzy Parker in "Kiss Them for Me!" Tit for tat!

'Will and Grace'

ERIC McCormack, the actor who plays will Truman in "Will and Grace" (9 p.m. Sundays on Studio 23) is straight, while the character he portrays is gay — but that's no problem for him, or for the show's gay viewers, who have accepted him as one of their own (well, at least on the TV screen).

McCormack's honest and relaxed portrayal of the young homosexual Manhattan lawyer living with his best friend Grace (Debra Messing) has earned him great notices. The actor hopes, however, that the show's popularity won't result in his getting typecast in gay roles. Once in fun, but more than that could be a real problem!

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

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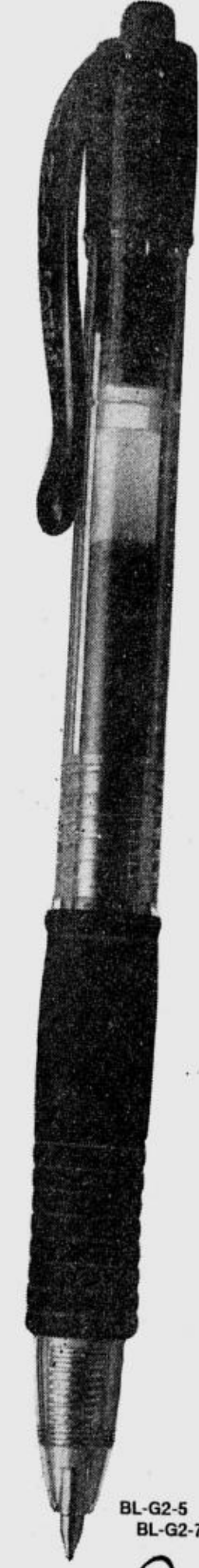
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GK GOH, RHB CAPITAL 2 foreign brokers leaving RP

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

MORE foreign brokerage houses are shutting down their Philippine units due to the sluggish stock market conditions.

Top Singaporean financial group GK Goh Holdings Ltd. yesterday announced that it would fold up its unit in the Philippines by end-November as part of overall measures to streamline operations.

Malaysia-based RHB Capital Bhd. likewise said it was terminating the operations of Rashid Hussain Securities (Philippines) Inc. by year's end.

Brokers said the continuing shakeout of foreign brokers, which began in January this year, was not surprising especially now that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States have added jitters to the global equities market.

Due to uncertainties arising from the war against terrorists, most investors are

liquidating their exposure in the stock market and shifting to cash and commodities as hedge.

The local stock market, for its part, has become one of the worst performing markets in the world. Since the start of the year, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index has fallen by 31.3 percent.

On the other hand, the value turnover in the market has deteriorated further since the Asian currency turmoil of 1997. From the start of the year, trading volume has shrunk by about 77 percent from the volume during the same period last year.

The closure of the GK Goh and RHB units has brought to 10 the number of foreign PSE members which have left the Philippine market since the start of the year.

The other foreign units which have earlier shut down operations were Citicorp Securities, Merrill Lynch, BNP Paribas, Securities 2000, UOB Securities, Nomura Se-

curities, Orion Squire Capital Inc. and OCBC Securities.

Although the Securities and Exchange Commission has eased certain regulatory restrictions such as the broker-dealer rule, which prevented brokers from trading their own accounts, traders said the weak economic environment aggravated by the further worsening global slowdown had made it even more difficult to attract investors into the stock market.

GK Goh Holdings Ltd. is a leading Asian investment services group, which also has offices in London, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Malaysia. It said it would streamline global operations by 20-30 percent.

GK Goh, a leading player in the Singaporean stock market with a share of more than 10 percent, was named by Finance Asia as Singapore's "Best Domestic Securities Firm" consecutively in 1999 and 2000.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, October 29, 2001)					
STOCKS	OPEN HIGH LOW			CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	10,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42.5	40.5	40.5	1,105,000
China Banking Corp.	520	520	520	520	1,250,240
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	19	19	18.5	18.5	65,400
Global Business Bank Inc.	76	85	76	85	800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	168	169	167	167	134,080
Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	10,800
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	240	240	240	2,280
Manulife Financial Corp.	1220	1230	1215	1230	3,200
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1075	1060	1070	16,530
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.27	330,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	545	545	520	545	2,200
Philtel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	375	377.5	375	375	41,230
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	40,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	9,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.5	21.75	21.5	21.75	11,800
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	880,800
Petron Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.12	2,334,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	150,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.46	1.46	1.36	1.36	4,895,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	110,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	23,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	48,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	807,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	5,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	10,000
RFM Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39.5	39.5	39	39.5	11,400
San Miguel Corp. B	45.5	45.5	45.5	45.5	106,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	60,000
Ayala Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	1,798,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	2,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	228,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	5,000
Banpres Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.63	0.63	1,940,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	350,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	900,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22	22.25	22	22.25	156,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.18	535,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	30,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.195	350,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	120,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	70,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	300,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	250,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	230,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	700,000
Manila Jockey Club	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26	25.5	25.5	55,400
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	2,070
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	120,900
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	9,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.2	5,978,000
Aranela Properties Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	1,250,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	376,000
City & Land Developers	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Fill-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Sm Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	1,947,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
Philix Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	150,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	36,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	350,000
SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	2,601,330			741,841,260.00	
Comm'l & Ind'l	56,772,000			84,117,785.00	
PRO	9,931,000			36,627,200.00	
Mining	161,000			42,600.00	
OIL	39,380,000			203,300.00	
GRAND TOTALS:	108,845,330			862,832,125.00	
AVERAGES					
Banks & Fin Svc	389.39			DOWN 6.89	
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,417.48			DOWN 4.75	
PRO	427.59			DOWN 2.31	
Mining	1,024.71			UP 4.33	
OIL	1.32			DOWN 0.02	
All Shares Index	639.37			UP 10.40	
Composite	994.84			DOWN 7.68	
NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42;					
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 83; NO. OF TRADES: 1,140					

PSE ordered to probe Philex price surge

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has directed the Philippine Stock Exchange to investigate whether there was possible insider trading on shares of Philex Mining Corp. "A" in mid-June involving Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

In a letter to PSE compliance and surveillance group head Manuel Lopez, SEC brokers and exchanges department director Jose Aquino noted that there had been unusual movements from June 15 to June 20 this year in Philex's share price, which increased by 61 percent from 24.5 centavos to 40 centavos.

On June 18, there was a disclosure circulated to brokers that an 81.8-percent owned Canadian subsidiary, Philex Gold Inc., would be issuing a press release in Canada at 8 a.m. on June 15 Canada time on additional drilling results at the Boyongan property in Surigao del Norte under the joint venture between Philex Gold and Anglo American Exploration (Philippines).

Upon inquiry by the SEC on when the press release was received by the PSE, a staff person assigned to monitor Philex said the press release was received by the PSE on Friday, June 15 at 1:02 p.m. and was circulated on Monday, June 18.

"Although the above mentioned press release may justify the increase in Philex's prices, however, the historical buyer/seller information showed that there seemed to be a suspiciously heightened buying interest on Philex even before the press release was made public, specifically that of RCBC, which bought two million shares on June 15, 2001," Aquino said.

He pointed out that the press release was allegedly received by PSE at 1:02 in the afternoon of the same day that RCBC had bought the shares in the morning trade at the PSE.

Philex shareholders include the Brimo family, the Social Security System, and the Gokongwei group.

Aquino told the PSE that if an investigation had already been made, it should submit immediately to the SEC an initial report of the probe.

Picop withdraws plan to shut down paper mill

PICOP Resources Inc., the country's biggest integrated manufacturer of timber and paper products, has withdrawn earlier plans to shut down operations after obtaining a fresh logging deal with the government.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Picop spokesperson Vicmart Balde said Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez recently approved a timber license agreement (TLA) for Picop's forestland.

"This development provides the basis for a long-term assurance of wood supply to Picop's pulp and paper mill," Balde said.

"The company will restart its various operations and as progress is made in the market, production volume will be increased," he said.

On Oct. 1, Picop told the PSE that it was shutting down its operations in Surigao del Sur. The reasons cited were the low prices of competing products being imported at dumped prices and the delayed approval by the DENR of the company's annual operating plan which prevented the company from accessing to its wood raw materials.

The closure would have affected a total of 8,000 workers, of which 3,000 represented direct employees while 5,000 were indirectly employed by Picop.

But while the recent TLA approval was enough to avert its closure, Picop has other pending requests with the DENR.

"We still have to hear from the DENR their clarification of the issues of planted tree ownership and harvesting in our IFMA (integrated forest management agreement) 35, the main source of Picop's wood raw material for newsprint," Balde said.

In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, Alvarez said he was not keen on granting Picop the IFMA, because this would give it full autonomy on forestry programs.

"Picop is already the biggest logger in the whole country, accounting

for three-fourths of allowable cuts," Alvarez said.

Instead, Alvarez said he wanted a co-production sharing with Picop in order to raise funds for better forest management.

"When resources are not shared, this aggravates poverty concerns. The poor people will be tempted to harm the forests due to lack of any other means of livelihood. The easy thing is to fall back on the forest for easy harvest," Alvarez said.

"What I want is for Picop to share these resources. Under a joint venture, there can be 60-40 or 50-50 partnership with the government," Alvarez stressed.

Alvarez said he did not believe that Picop was ever serious in its threats to shut down operations, especially since the company still had 100,000 hectares of concession left to provide the company the raw materials it needed.

"I'm not asking for charity. I'm asking for a share of the natural resources. I'm looking at community-based forest management for indigenous people and give them farming opportunities," he said.

At present, Alvarez said most of Picop's employees were workers and loggers.

"This is not enough. Those people need more capability to create wealth for their communities so that they would be able to preserve their culture and way of life," he said.

Listed in 1973, Picop used to be known as the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines. It changed its name to Picop Resources in 1995 and subsequently converted itself into a holding company in 1997.

Picop, which has been incurring losses since 1998, had total assets of P5.84 billion as against liabilities of P2.79 billion. Its biggest stockholder is Far East Cement Corp.

Analysts said the higher foreign exchange rate since the Asian currency turmoil erupted in 1997 has jacked up the cost of paper milling in the country.

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CROWN?
YOU'VE GOT
**O-SHAPED
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HAIRLINE?
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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED independent directors of Robinsons Land Corp. were Robert Coyiuto Jr., Hermenegildo Zayco and Wilfrido Tecson.

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26, 4 p.m. at the Level 5, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders as of Oct. 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. bought 38.6 million of its shares at P1.50 per share.

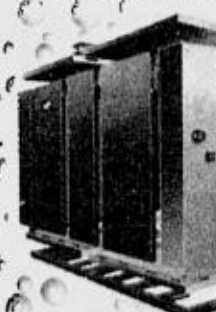
ELECTED directors of Prime Gaming Philippines Inc. were Alfredo Ramos, George Yang, Ng Foo Leong, Lim Meng Kwong, Seow Swee Pin, Low Siaw Peng, Dexter Almarines and Zoilo Javier. Also, the company reduced its number of directors from 11 to nine. The present board shall elect the ninth director.

CENTRO Escolar University bought 36,000 of its shares at P8 each.

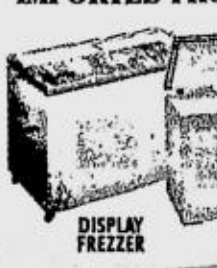
CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro bought 50,000 of its shares at P0.79 each. Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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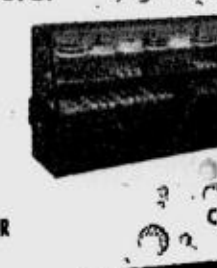
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WALK-IN COLD STORAGE



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POOR SERVICE

Meralco cuts spending, warns of more outages

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE MANILA Electric Co. warned yesterday of longer power outages as it had not yet been allowed to hike its rates and was forced to curb spending plans next year.

"We are looking toward slashing further our capital expenditure (capex) next year," Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada said.

Andrada said Meralco would spend P4 billion next year compared with its original plan to spend P6 billion—a sum he said would cover maintenance but would not allow the company to ex-

pand services.

"(A P4-billion) capex would be enough to finance only our maintenance program," Andrada told reporters.

He said Meralco would not be able to set aside money for expenses like computers, new buildings and substations.

Service quality could drop, he added.

"If we do not have enough resources, our capacity to meet the demand of the public would be affected, thus, we could be seeing longer power outages just like what

we experienced in the early '90s," he said.

The utility has applied to the Energy Regulatory Commission to increase the basic rates on electricity by 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour but has not yet received approval.

The delay was due to a reshuffle in the energy commission and the new board needed more time to assess Meralco's application.

The 10-percent state-owned power giant late last week shelved a \$58-million-dollar plant project on a lack of investor interest.

Meralco services a total of about 3.78 million customers in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

DOF reviewing \$500M worth of stagnant loans

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is reviewing some \$500 million worth of "slow-moving" projects being funded by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

"These are slow moving projects, and we are reviewing it to see whether it is still wise to implement them or not," Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong said in an interview yesterday.

Amatong said these projects were burdening the government with costly commitment fees.

The government may cancel a \$200-million loan for the Metro Manila air quality improvement project and another \$100 million in social expenditure management loans from the World Bank, he said.

Also facing the financing axe are the \$100-million grain sector reform program and \$100-million Pasig River rehabilitation project, according to Amatong.

Amatong said the finance department was meeting with the National Economic and Development Authority to evaluate four loans that remained pending as part of the government's ongoing inventory of existing foreign aids and borrowings.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho issued a memorandum circular two months ago to the inter-agency Investment Coordinating Council to cancel or bring back for approval foreign-assisted projects that failed to budge 18 months after these were approved.

Finance officials have already canceled \$600 million worth of projects to be financed by official development assistance to save on commitment fees.

Amatong explained that the four loans approved by the World Bank and ADB failed to move because of the absence of counterpart funding from the government and bureaucratic red tape.

She also cited a concern with the absorptive capacity of the economy to implement these projects.

Steel firm says no inferior items

A LOCAL steel manufacturer yesterday strongly denied reports that inferior steel items that could supposedly endanger public safety were now proliferating in the market.

In a news statement, Sonic Steel Industries Inc. also took exception to allegations that one of the major reasons why the Department of Trade and Industry was helpless in going after erring firms was because it was able to secure a restraining order from the court.

Sonic Steel counsel Joel Butuyan said globalization allowed the entry of various kinds of sheets that offered consumers more options to choose from based on their needs and buying capacity.

"As such, there is no such thing as substandard but only a standard that defines affordability to consumers. The consumers have the free option to choose what kind of GI sheets are affordable to their needs in terms of base metal thickness and mass coating weight," Butuyan said.

Capwire predicts P300-M revenue

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

CASH-STRAPPED Capitol Wireless Inc. is projecting P300 million in revenues and a positive earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) for fiscal year 2002, mainly driven by its corporate data business.

Capwire's corporate data business accounted for 21 percent of its revenues last fiscal year, but this was expected to go up to 60 percent by its current fiscal year ending June 2002, Capwire chief finance officer Joel Aguilar said in an interview last week.

He said Capwire's subsidiary, wholesale Internet service provider Wavelength, already had 25 corporate accounts, but it was aiming to bag more accounts within the year.

Capwire's first quarter results showed that data services posted a net revenue growth of 46.5 percent from last year's figures.

Aguilar said new Internet-related services would account for around 30 percent of Capwire's revenues for this fiscal year.

He did admit, though, that Capwire was having a hard time firming up its projections because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, as well as pressure that its creditors had put in the past few months.

Capwire last year signed a debt restructuring agreement with its creditors for almost P1 billion worth of debts.

Due to the economic downturn, however, the company proposed a revised business plan that included new restructure terms calling for a longer grace period and reduced interest payments.

The consortium of banks was not keen on revising the restructure terms, so the case was brought to the Makati Regional Trial Court, where a motion for Capwire to be put under receivership was filed.

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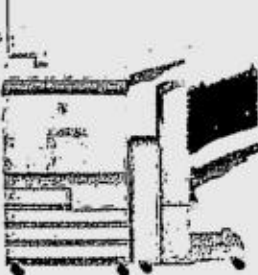


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FAVORABLE COURT RULING

Cement firms score victory

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor) has scored a major legal victory after the Court of Appeals issued a temporary restraining order barring the Valenzuela Regional Trial Court from blocking the cement manufacturers' petition for punitive duties and quotas on cement imports.

The CA ruling allows the Department of Trade and Industry to resume its review of Philcemcor's appeal for relief against import surge under the Safeguard Measures Act.

The DTI was poised to hand down its decision on Philcemcor's petition in late September following months of combing through voluminous data submitted by the warring cement makers and importers. But it was forced to withhold

its resolution following the preliminary injunction issued by the Valenzuela RTC on Sept. 14 on grounds that the Safeguards Act was unconstitutional.

In its resolution issued on Oct. 25 this year, the CA said it issued a TRO against Valenzuela Judge Floro P. Alejo from implementing his injunction and from conducting further proceedings on the case to preserve the status quo of the case between the cement manufacturers and the groups of consumers and traders.

Philcemcor's counsel Carpio & Villaraza law office questioned Alejo's ruling which it described as "patently null and void" and accused the judge of grave abuse of discretion. The Valenzuela RTC opined that it was unconstitutional for mere Cabinet Secretaries to usurp the power of taxation reserved only for the President.

Under the Safeguard Act, Congress authorized the Secretary of Trade and Industry (for manufactured goods) and Secretary of Agriculture (for agriculture products) to impose punitive tariffs or quotas to prevent imports from flooding the market and drown local industries.

Roxas said: "We welcome the CA action as it now enables us to perform our mandate under the Safeguard Act which had been enacted by Congress to provide safety nets for our workers and local industries from cheap imports."

Now armed with the CA's ruling, Roxas ordered Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. to resume the delayed review on cases under the Safeguard Act filed by Philcemcor and Philippine Ceramics and Tile Manufacturers.

NTC starts probe of CATV rate hike

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

AS WAR between program provider Star TV Group and sister cable companies Sky Vision Corp. and Phil. Home Cable Holdings Corp. continues, the National Telecommunications Commission has opened an investigation of the cable companies' rate increase and the impact of the squabble on subscribers.

NTC broadcast department chief Carlos Saluan Jr. told reporters yesterday that the commission would look into the P150-rate increase that SkyCable and Home Cable would be imposing before yearend and the sudden pullout of Star TV channels from the two cable companies.

"Were subscribers properly informed before they (Sky and Home) implemented this? We would look at certain guidelines and program standards that they have to comply with," he said.

Should the NTC find any violation on the part of the cable companies, Saluan said, certain fines and penalties, including possible revocation of license, would be imposed depending on the degree of the violations.

Saluan admitted that subscription rates were deregulated so the NTC could not really do anything much about the rate increase that the two cable com-

panies would be imposing.

He also said the issue between the two companies and Star TV was not something the NTC could encroach into.

Saluan said the investigation would focus more on the impact of the squabble on SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers.

"A letter from NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. will be sent to the operators, asking them to explain what steps they've taken to minimize the impact (on consumers) of the increase in subscription fees and the removal of some programs," he said.

Star TV on Oct. 19 cut off signals to SkyCable and Home Cable because of P160 million in debts, it said in a paid advertisement in major dailies last week.

Even with the pullout of several channels, the sister cable companies announced last week that they would increase their rates by P150 before yearend.

Sky Vision managing director Carlos Tria Jr. told reporters that the two firms had to "make the painful decision" of increasing their rates because of the skyrocketing fees that the content providers were charging as well as the sister companies' growing debts.

Many SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers complained that the rate increase was unfair and ill-

timed as it coincided with the removal of some of their popular channels.

Star TV and the cable companies said they were willing to go back to the negotiating table.

ICC OKs P1B worth of projects for foreign funding

BY DORIS C. DURLAO

THE GOVERNMENT has approved P1 billion worth of new foreign-assisted projects to address water quality and irrigation problems in the countryside.

The National Economic and Development Authority-led Investment Coordination Committee yesterday said the projects would be funded mostly by official development assistance from Japan.

The ICC screens all development projects in the country for potential ODA funding.

The package includes the installation of water treatment facilities, rehabilitation of well pumps, installation of pipes and electrical equipment for treatment facilities and procurement of laboratory equipment for water analyses.

Efforts will focus on the treatment of ground water that has high concentration of iron, manganese and ammonia with unac-

ceptable color, taste and odor to meet the country's national standard for drinking water.

The areas that will benefit from this project include the water districts of Binnaley in Pangasinan, Pagsanjan in Laguna, Panitan and Pontevedra in Capiz and Midsayap in North Cotabato.

Conditional approval was also given to the water districts of Lingayen in Pangasinan, Solana in Cagayan, Dingle-Pototan in Iloilo, Abuyog in Leyte and Kabacan in North Cotabato, pending submission of ICC requirements.

Also approved was the P396-million rehabilitation of the Cagayan Integrated Agricultural Development Project. Specifically, the project will focus on the rehabilitation and restoration of pumping stations in some municipalities of Cagayan which are now experiencing unstable water supply due to shifted river channel and deteriorating equipment.

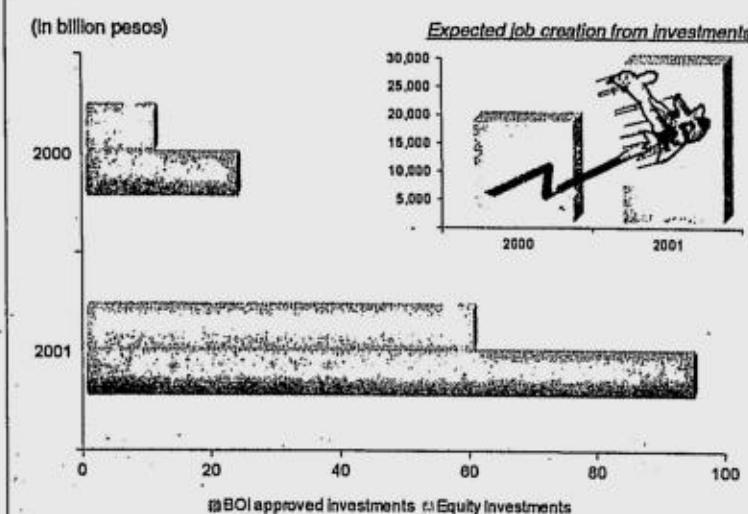
"The project aims to increase the yield of farmers and generate employment," the ICC said.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

BOI registered investments

(January to September 2000 & 2001)



Source: Department of Trade & Industry

THE BOARD of Investments has surpassed its P50-billion investment target as of end-September as it reported a nine-month investment performance of P94.4 billion. The increase of almost 300 percent from last year's total led to the generation of over 28,000 jobs. Equity investments from local investors surged by 731.74 percent bringing the total to P60.21 billion, as compared to the P10.62 billion generated last year.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

GOINGS-ON

AMA financing programs

AMA Bank has announced the infusion of additional capital to jumpstart its multimillion-peso financing and lending programs.

Alex Soliman, AMA Bank executive vice president, said the new capital would enable the bank to increase its lending programs by at least three times from the present level.

AMA bank, with its affiliate AMA Computer University, has earmarked P400 million for the recently launched "study now pay later plan."

The bank has also been active in its "One Day Salary Loan Release" where borrowers from qualified companies receive their salary loans on the day the applications are filed.

The bank will also launch micro finance loan program similar to the very successful Grameenbank in Bangladesh. This program will extend loans to various group undertakings.

Pilmico moves up

PILMICO Foods Corp., an Aboitiz-owned company, jumped 41 notches to land in the 182nd place (in terms of sales) among last year's top 5000 corporations surveyed by the Securities and Exchange Commission and Credit Investigation Bureau Inc.

Since its establishment on Sept. 7, 1962, the Iligan City-based flour miller has grown to become one of the country's top corporations. In 1995, Pilmico Foods entered into a joint venture with one of the world's biggest manufacturers of baking yeast, the Burns Philip Group of Australia, to form Pilmico-Mauri Foods Corp.

In 1997, it invested in a feeds- and swine-production company together with two other US firms—Purina Mills Inc. and Tyson Foods Inc.—to form Fil Am Foods Inc. located in Capas, Tarlac, and commercially known as PMI Nutrition.

Instability blamed for exporters' woes

A FORMER government minister has blamed constant changes in administration and lack of focus by businessmen for the country's failure to nurture competitive export industries.

Former Science Secretary Ceferino Follusco said while the government and the private sector were able to come up with good strategies for export development, they failed miserably in the implementation stage.

Follusco said these strategies could not be carried out because the administration kept changing heads while the private sector had too many things on their plate.

He said there should be a stable period of leadership in the government that should be long

enough to carry out their plans, while businessmen should band together to concentrate on industries where the Philippines could create niches of excellence.

He remained optimistic that development through sustained focus on industry winners was still the best route for an economy dominated by agriculture.

He underscored the need for industries to boost their productivity and move forward to higher value-added products to maximize the country's limited resources.

Follusco said the Philippines could still be a world-class player in the copra, sugar and abaca markets.

OPEN LETTER TO BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB STOCKHOLDERS

The recent publicly paid advertisements of the BCCC signed by its current President, Atty. Federico Agcaoili, are naked proof that he has embroiled the BCCC and used its resources to fight me and my other children in the Ilusorio Family Feud.

Background. The estate of my late husband, Potenciano (Nanoy) Ilusorio, and I beneficially own 22% of the capital stock of the BCCC, the largest single stockholding bloc in the corporation. Five years ago, Nanoy was diagnosed with a debilitating sickness. His frailty grew progressively until he passed away last June 28, 2001. However, for the last three years, my two daughters and my son who are estranged from me forcibly took him and kept him away from me against our mutual wishes. They kept him under their total control in order to take advantage of his illness so that he could sign over to them our conjugal assets without my knowledge and consent. Atty. Agcaoili supported the separation and the take-over and now sits on the Board of the BCCC as President through the qualifying share which I previously only assigned to him in 1997.

Real issues. The current management of the BCCC, headed by Atty. Agcaoili as President and my own estranged daughter, Sylvia, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, have used the resources, the personnel, the facilities and the money of the Club to fight me and my other children, and to employ and compensate themselves (including Atty. Agcaoili) and other high charging lawyers with fees at the BCCC's expense to support their side of the so-called family feud. This is highly improper and laden with conflicts of interest. That is why this family feud became a BCCC issue.

Now, Atty. Agcaoili submits so-called facts which are actually either incomplete or are distortions or lies:

Lie: That Nanoy properly voted our conjugal shares in the BCC is a lie because his increasingly debilitating affliction and his forcible separation from me prevented him from properly expressing his and my wishes.

Lie: Atty. Agcaoili's so-called achievements in the Club over the past two years, including the repayment of the P90 million debt and its current cash reserves, could not have been made if not for the P240 million raised through the issue of new shares during 1997 by the previous board and management.

Lie: The current management headed by Atty. Agcaoili and Sylvia refuse to account for and open up the books of the Club to other stockholders to scrutinize the costs of the projects, in spite of an en banc unanimous resolution by the SEC ordering management to do so. Current management also refuses to disclose the complete stockholders list to me and other aspiring candidates for the Board. Notices of the stockholders meetings are also not sent to actual stockholders who may be opposed to their policies.

Lie: I did not declare my husband incompetent. That is the finding of doctors and he openly and formally admitted it himself in a publicly sworn statement. I declared him frail, which he obviously was, so that I could care for him as this was my duty. He died in a remote Batangas farm, under the control of Sylvia, under mysterious circumstances, away from me for three years and unaided by any doctor.

Lie: I did not try to install our son Ramon. It was my husband and I who both offered Nanoy's position to Ramon. It was Ramon who refused because Sylvia and Lin made Nanoy unilaterally change the terms of the offer. So it is now Atty. Agcaoili, the lawyer of Sylvia and brother-in-law of my son Max, who is President.

Lie: The Supreme Court did not rule with finality. It merely dismissed my Habeas Corpus petition over Nanoy because his death made the issue moot and academic.

I have documented and explained these issues in supporting papers, as well as in my book, "On the Edge of Heaven", now on its second edition, a copy of which you may request for by contacting my office.

In closing, I hope you as a stockholder will join me in over-hauling the management and replacing it with professionally oriented personnel, as my husband envisioned before his affliction, who will have the interests of all stockholders and members, not merely those of my estranged daughters and son and their friends. After all, based on the undivided conjugal interest of my husband and I, my estranged children comprise only 5% of the capital stock of the corporation and yet they treat the facilities of the Club as if they own it personally to the detriment of all others.

Yours very truly,

Sgd.
ERLINDA K. ILUSORIO

25 October 2001

Peso strengthens as OFW remittances start coming in

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

DOLLAR remittances from Filipinos overseas have started to trickle down into the system, helping the peso to recover slightly to 51.93 to a dollar yesterday from 52.04 last Friday.

Traders, however, said the recovery might be temporary despite a similar improvement in other regional currencies such as the Japanese yen and Thai baht.

The yen went up to 122.5 to a dollar from 123.3 in the previous day. Even the Indonesian rupiah showed some strength yesterday, said a trader from a foreign bank.

"I think this is just a technical correction and the P52-to-\$1 level is still the more realistic rate given the uncertainties in the world economy, not to mention the internal problems of the Philippines," said a trader from a big foreign bank.

Another trader said that the central bank policy of maintaining a healthy differential between local and US interest rates has been effectively preventing capital flights.

"Some of our clients prefer to lock up their investments in pesos to avail themselves of higher interest rates here," said the trader.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said there was still a chance for the peso to hit the 50-to-\$1 level by yearend although he conceded that it would likely settle at 51 to 51.5.

He said the bleak outlook of some investment banks projecting that the peso would hit 55 to \$1 was not realistic. The central bank chief said the substantial remittance from the country's overseas workers' should buoy the local currency.

The BSP is expecting \$5.5 billion to \$6 billion in dollar remittances this year. As of the first half, overseas workers remitted more than \$2 billion.

Corn output to grow 1.7%

AFTER coming out with a good palay production report, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor yesterday said the Philippines will also have a good corn harvest this year with the total output to reach 4.59 million tons, up 1.7 percent from its year-ago level of 4.51 million tons.

The agriculture secretary made the announcement before he left for China with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Montemayor said a higher corn production would be achieved despite the slight decline in the total area harvested to 2.49 million hectares this year from 2.51 million in 2000.

"Let's all hope that the plans and projects laid out by President Arroyo to modernize agriculture and attain food security will be fully set in place so that we can sustain this production growth," Montemayor added.

The secretary pointed out that the output increase was largely due to improved farm productivity brought about by the use of good certified seeds made available under the government's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program for corn. This was complemented by enough rainfall in major corn growing areas.

Citing a report submitted to him by Bureau of Agricultural Statistics Director Romeo Recide, the DA chief said yield per hectare improved by 2.2 percent to 1.84 tons per hectare in 2001 from 1.80 tons per hectare last year.

In the last quarter of the year, yield per hectare is expected to jump 12 percent to 1.77 tons per hectare from 1.58 registered in the same period last year.

Earlier, Montemayor said the country was expecting a bumper palay harvest this year. Production is seen to hit a record of 12.9 million metric tons, up from last year's 12.39 million metric tons.

PAL restores flights to Melbourne

PHILIPPINE Airlines today restores its direct service to Melbourne in line with its expansion binge this year.

The Australian city is the third new international destination that PAL has launched recently. Last Sunday, the flag carrier began regular services to Bangkok and Shanghai.

All three maiden flights, which deployed wide-body Airbus A330-300 aircraft, took off with respectable loads attesting to the resilience and loyalty of PAL's core markets in the face of the global downturn in air travel.

The flight to Bangkok (PR 730) registered the highest passenger load with 302 seats occupied for an exceptional 100 percent capacity utilization. The flight to Shanghai (PR 336) carried a 90-percent load while tomorrow's inaugural flight to Melbourne is 56-percent booked as of press time.

The new routes were planned before the current

slump hit the industry in mid-September. By moving forward with them despite the crisis, PAL showed its commitment to its customers.

"Travel within Asia-Pacific is proving to be a better alternative to long-haul trips to Europe," said PAL president Avelino L. Zapanta.

"Our major markets in the region remain vibrant and generally impervious to the slowdown, and that gives us the confidence to offer these new services. Our latest major concern is the impact of the Japanese travel advisory, but we are working closely with the industry to overcome the problem."

Top PAL officials fanned out across the region to promote the new routes. Zapanta is headed to Melbourne while executive vice president Henry So Uy flew to Shanghai. Vice president for sales David A. Lim visited Bangkok.

Today's flight to Melbourne marks PAL's return to the Victoria capital after a three-year absence.

DOTC readies terms of bidding for MRT extension project

By ABIGAIL L. HO

THE DEPARTMENT OF Transportation and Communications has already prepared the terms of reference for the bidding of the Metro Rail Transit extension project after it formally terminated negotiations with MRT-3 builder Metro Rail Transit Corp.

Undersecretary for rails Wilfredo Trinidad said in a news briefing yesterday that the terms of reference for the bidding were almost complete. Once ready, these would be submitted to the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Co-ordination Committee for approval.

The bidding would take place 2 1/2 months after the NEDA-ICC approves the terms, he added.

MRTC's proposal was junked because a lot of issues remained unresolved even after over two weeks of negotiations, Trinidad said.

The DOTC and MRTC failed to meet the Oct. 15 deadline set for the drafting of an agreement that would be submitted for the approval of the NEDA-ICC.

MRTC spokesperson Paul Daza had urged the DOTC to continue the negotiations with them so as not to delay the project. He reasoned that only five out of at least 62 issues that came up only three days before the deadline remained unresolved and these were "resolvable in at least another 30 days."

MRTC also expressed its willingness to meet the remaining conditions set by the government in its contract to build the strategic 5.1-kilometer MRT extension.

"We see a positive end to this as we are

willing to meet the conditions of the DOTC and we see that the (DOTC) is committed to addressing all issues toward giving the riding public an

efficient and reliable mass transportation system," Daza said.

But MRT-3 general manager Mario Miranda said there were actually

13 major issues that the DOTC and MRTC failed to iron out when the deadline came. He clarified that the DOTC raised only 29 issues, but

these were found in 62 locations in the MRTC proposal.

He added that these issues were raised "from day one of the negotia-

tion" and not only days before the deadline as Daza claimed.

He disclosed that they did not even agree on the project's cost.

MRTC's proposal for the civil works aspect of the project was pegged at \$218 million, while the DOTC wanted it to be set at

only \$200 million.

The DOTC and MRTC earlier failed to agree on the type of light rail vehicles that would be used for the extension

project. An option was for the MRTC to undertake only the infrastructure part of the project, while the LRVs would be auctioned off.

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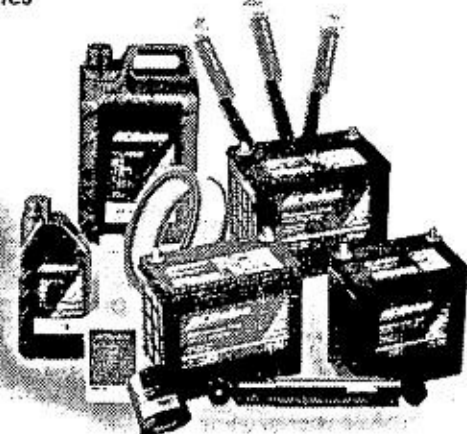
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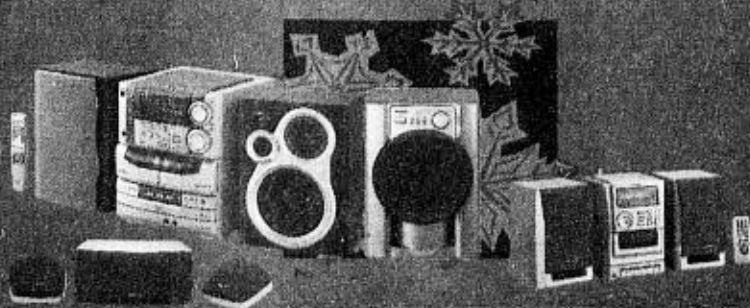
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Asia needs actions to ensure growth—WEF

HONG KONG—Asia is teetering on the edge of a precipice and needs to translate words into actions to regain stability and growth or be swept under by ill economic winds from the United States and Europe, the World Economic Forum warned Monday.

"Asia needs a marketplace where ideas can be traded and agreements reached with all players—business, government and civic organizations—present at the table," wrote WEF Asia director Frank-Jürgen Richter and WEF senior regional manager Pamela Mar.

"Such a forum can strike a balance, address issues and find points of common interest in order to reach decisions in a democratic, inclusive fashion," they said in an article published here to coincide with the opening of the WEF's 10th East Asia Economic Summit in Hong Kong.

Asia was not short of forums of dialogue. Up until now, however, there has been much talk and media attention but "too little outcome and action," they said in the South China Morning Post.

"We do propose that Asians need to agree on ar-

eas of common interest, and swiftly upscale their conversations," they said.

The WEF said the current crisis was totally different from the 1997 Asian financial crisis and neither government will nor corporate determination alone would be sufficient to address it.

"The current situation—a severe downturn with roots in geopolitical tension and global cyclical economic issues—requires concerted action by government and business to secure global geopolitical trust, deal with the negative fallout from restive populations, and reestablish confidence in Asia's corporate sector," they said.

"Asia will either seize this opportunity to push forward with a solid core, or be swept under as the ill economic winds from the United States and Europe blow stronger," they said, warning the continent stood on the edge of a precipice, and its future was at risk.

The WEF hoped to be able to help by being independent, non-government and non-profit, and not bound by a regional or corporate agenda. **AFP**

Slew of US economic data due out this week to be 'pretty ugly'

WASHINGTON—A slew of data due out this week will shed light on how severely the Sept. 11 attacks have damaged the US economy, and analysts warn the picture these key reports will reveal is not going to be pretty.

Eagerly awaited reports will be released on October unemployment and manufacturing and on economic growth in the third quarter, which ended Sept. 30. Analysts expect all to show sharp declines and to confirm the US economy, which was weak before Sept. 11, to sink into a recession after the attacks.

"The data are terrible," said Richard DeKaser, chief economist at National City Corp. in Cleveland. "We're getting our best reads right now on the aftermath of Sept. 11 and it's looking pretty ugly."

But DeKaser and other economists said the true

question would remain unanswered: Will the expected bad readings imply an evolving, lasting trend or will they reflect one-time effects from the attacks that will soon disappear?

"It still leaves unresolved questions of how much of this has been a knee-jerk reaction to heightened uncertainty that will gradually abate as time goes by and how much of this is really kind of the last straw breaking and things tumbling further," he said.

Federal Reserve officials have also voiced concern that it will be hard to judge how much to read into the data.

"I don't know how we can have really great confidence in coming weeks about how to read the incoming data or how to make forecasts," Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis president William Poole said in a Reuters interview earlier this month. **Reuters**

Malaysia growth to be less than 1%

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Malaysia's economy, which is being battered by the global slowdown made worse by the terrorist attacks in the United States, will grow by less than one percent in the third quarter of this year, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Monday.

"There will be some positive growth, maybe 0.5 percent, maybe slightly more," Mahathir told reporters when asked about gross domestic product growth for the third quarter.

Asked if growth would be below one percent for the quarter, he said: "Yes, less than one percent."

The Malaysian government has slashed its growth forecast for 2001 to between one and 2 percent from

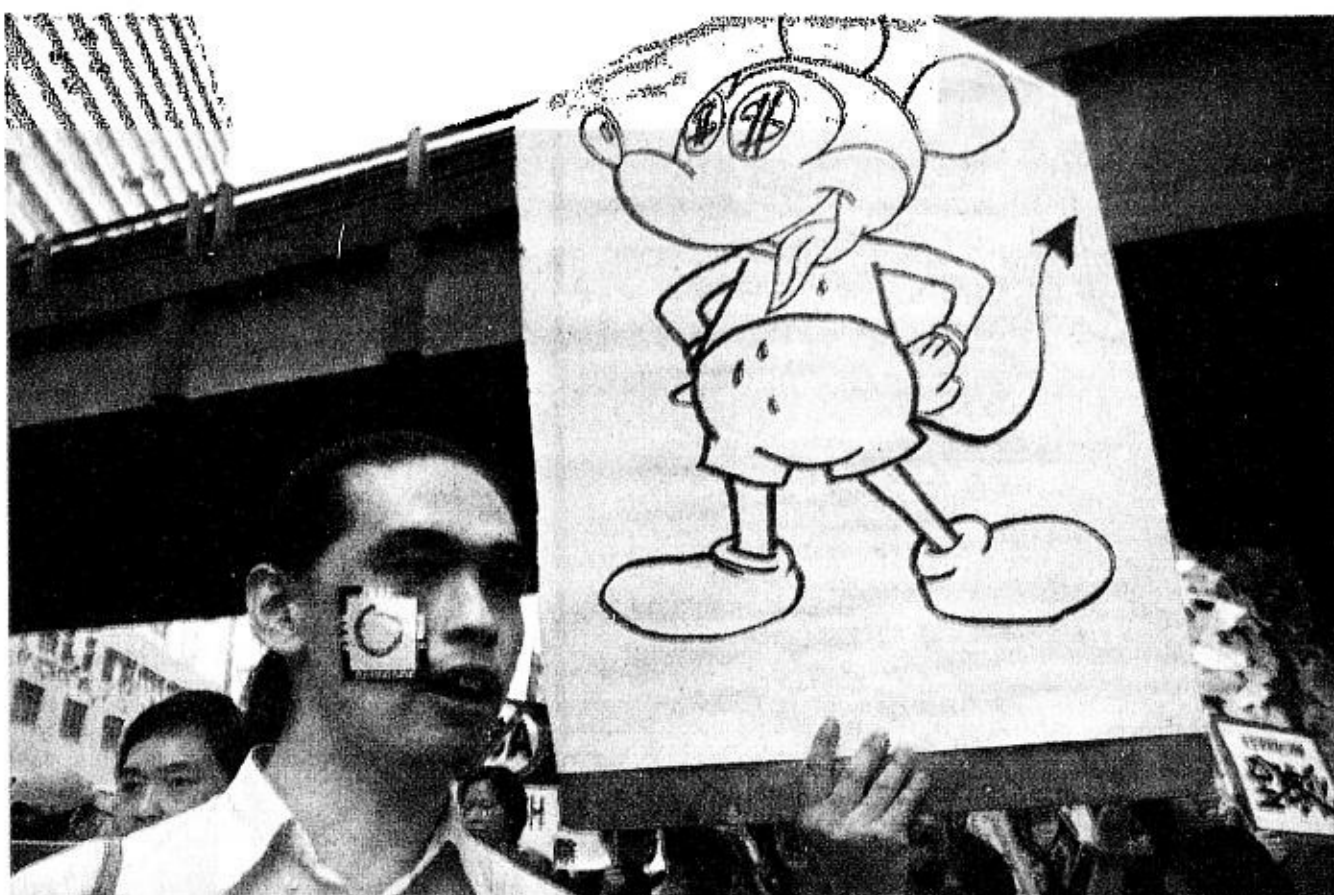
5 percent to 6 percent predicted in March.

Malaysia's gross domestic product expanded 8.3 percent in 2000 compared to the previous year.

Mahathir has said that the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States have increased the likelihood that the global economic slowdown—which is eating into demand for Malaysia's key export of electronic goods and products—will be prolonged and deeper than otherwise.

The central bank will publish the third-quarter data on Nov. 22.

Malaysia's gross domestic product rose 3.1 percent year-on-year in the first quarter, and edged up 0.5 percent in the second quarter. **AP**



A PROTESTER holds a placard with a Mickey Mouse picture as a symbol of globalization, as about 300 people march through a street in Hong Kong's Kowloon district to protest against economic globalization on the eve of the World Economic Forum. **AP**

GM sells Hughes to EchoStar for \$26B

DETROIT—General Motors Corp. has agreed to sell its Hughes Electronics subsidiary and its DirecTV home satellite network to EchoStar Communications for \$25.8 billion.

GM's board of directors decided to sell to EchoStar after News Corp. dropped out of the bidding Saturday. If approved by regulators, EchoStar's purchase would make the home satellite business in the United States a near-monopoly.

Under the terms of the deal announced Sunday in a news release, GM would technically spin off Hughes and merge it with EchoStar in a tax-free transaction.

An EchoStar representative was not immediately available for comment.

EchoStar, of Littleton, Colorado, is offering 0.73 EchoStar shares for each share of Hughes. Based on EchoStar's closing stock price Friday of \$25.26, the deal values each share of Hughes at \$18.44—a 20-percent premium to Hughes' closing share

price of \$15.35.

News Corp. chair Rupert Murdoch withdrew his company's long-standing offer Saturday after GM's board failed to reach a decision on the sale.

The two companies had been in negotiations for more than 18 months, and Murdoch sorely wanted to make Hughes Electronics, and especially its DirecTV home satellite unit, part of his international media empire.

"Hughes would have been an excellent strategic fit for our global platforms, and we are disappointed with the board's inaction in the face of an as-yet unfinanced counter proposal," Murdoch said in a statement.

EchoStar entered the picture this summer with a proposed stock swap and assumption of almost \$2 billion in debt for Hughes and its DirecTV division, which had 10 million subscribers. EchoStar also had guaranteed GM a \$500-million breakup consideration if regulators reject the deal. **AP**

United sacks chair, CEO

CHICAGO—United Airlines hopes a midcourse correction in top management will help regain the shaken confidence of investors, passengers and employees.

Struggling through a catastrophic year, parent company UAL Corp. replaced James Goodwin on Sunday and named board member John Creighton as its interim chair and chief executive after a hurried search.

The move was aimed at stopping the damage done to the company's stock and relations with United unions and passengers by Goodwin's blunt warning less than two weeks earlier that the carrier was hemorrhaging cash and could "perish" sometime next year. **AP**



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INVITATION TO BID

Date: October 30, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the **Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)** and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. RI-RR01396-02 STO-A for the Rehabilitation of San Andres-San Fernando road at ARC St. Domingo, Albay. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Sto. Domingo, Albay an implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Description of the Project: Road Rehabilitation of 2.697 kms. All weather road with application of Soil Stabilizer, 832 cu.m. of Lined Canal Structures and 370 cu.m. of slope protection works.

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
102	Roadway Excavation	2,334 cu.m.
104	Embankment	5,431 cu.m.
200	Aggregate Subbase Course	1,620 cu.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	1,620 cu.m.
504	Grouted Riprap	370 cu.m.
SPL-1	Lined Canal	832 cu.m.
SPL-2	Soil Stabilizer	16,186.32 sq.m.

Bid Security : P120,000.00
Bid Closing Date : November 3, 2001

Minimum Equipment Required

One (1) unit D85 Bulldozer - owned; One (1) unit Road Grader - owned; One (1) unit Vibratory Road Roller (Min. 15 tons) - owned; Three (3) units Dump Trucks (12 cu.m. capacity) - owned; One (1) unit Payloader - owned; One (1) unit Water Truck (6,000 liters cap) - owned, minimum set of material testing equipment.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at above office starting November 5, 2001, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos only (P5,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on November 15, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sanggunian Bayan Hall, Sto. Domingo, Albay.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Sto. Domingo, Albay on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid deemed to be the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) HERBIE B. AGUAS
Mun. Mayor/Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI - Oct. 30, 2001)



INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of Transportation and Communications invites computer companies to bid for the **DOTC New Computer and Printer Purchase**, consisting of:

- 1.1 Purchase of personal computers, notebook computers, laser printers, color printers and uninterruptible power supply (UPS) units, with the specification and additional equipment and software as specified in the Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 Provision of warranty on parts and labor as specified for these units, and maintenance services by technically qualified personnel for hardware.

2. Bidders should have been in this business for at least three (3) years.

3. Implementation of the **DOTC New Computer and Printer Purchase** shall be completed within two (2) months after receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

4. The total amount estimated for this project will be PHP 8,375,500.00.

5. Instructions for eligibility may be secured from the Office of the PEAC-IT Chairman at Unit 34, 3/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, from November 5, 2001 to November 9, 2001 up to 5:00 PM. The following steps will be followed:

- 5.1. Payment of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) as non-refundable charges at the Cashier's Office, 5/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.
- 5.2. Presentation of the official receipt of payment and letter of intent.

All required eligibility documents shall be submitted to the:
Office of the Chairman, PEAC-IT
Department of Transportation and Communications
Unit 34, 3/F Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue
Mandaluyong City

on or before November 16, 2001 until 5:00 PM. Late submissions will not be accepted.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, accept such bid considered most advantageous to the government, or refrain from making any award.

(Sgd.) ALAN A. TAN
Asst. Secretary for Legal Affairs
and Administrative Services
and Chairman, PEAC-IT

(PDI - Oct. 29, 30 & Nov. 5, 2001)



INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all Interested Service Contractors to participate in the bidding for the Maintenance and Servicing of the following IT equipment, various brands installed at the NFA Central Office and National Capital Region for Year 2002:

- 412 Units Personal computers and its peripherals
- 452 Units Printers
- 11 Units Server
- 9 Units Scanner
- 9 Units UPS
- 1 Unit 21" Monitor

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

- November 5-6, 2001 - Issuance of list of prequalification requirements
- November 14, 2001 - Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents
- November 19-20, 2001 - Issuance of bid documents
- November 22, 2001 (10:00 AM) - Pre-bidding conference
- November 29, 2001 - Submission of bid proposals
- (9:15 - 10:00 AM) - Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez St. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA
Deputy Administrator and
Vice-Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Oct. 29 & 30, 2001)



POSTPONEMENT OF BIDDING

AD NO. GENCO2-2001-1

Due to suppliers' request, the bidding for NPC GENCO 2 requirements scheduled on November 8, 2001 is hereby postponed. The new schedules are as follows:

Deadline for Securing Bid/Tender Documents:
November 15, 2001, 9:00 a.m.

Deadline for Submission of Bids:
November 15, 2001, 10:00 a.m.

Opening of Bids:
November 15, 2001, 10:00 a.m.

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) J. C. HIDALGO
Chairman, BAC-GENCO 2

(PDI - Oct. 30 & 31, 2001)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF HAGEMEYER PHILIPPINES, INC.

Notice is hereby given that Hagemeyer Philippines, Inc. will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission an Amended Articles of Incorporation shortening its corporate life to **November 30, 2001** and thereby dissolving said corporation effective upon approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Any person who may have a claim against the said corporation may present the same to any of its officers at the office of the corporation at 3rd Floor, OAC Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

This announcement serves as official notice to all parties concerned of the dissolution of the said corporation.

(Sgd.) MARY ANN BEVERLY P. PARAS
Vice President and General Manager

(PDI - Oct. 23, 30 & Nov. 6, 2001)



INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

22 October 2001

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAAC, to bid for the contract listed as follows:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (Million)	PCAB Category	IAAC Classification
Capitol Homes (Kibugawson) Resettlement Project, Brgy. Mansilingan, Bacolod City	Road, drainage sewerage, hand pumps and survey works	P16.00	A	Medium "B" for Roads

A. Eligibility Statement Forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Staff/Secretariat, Second Floor, NHA Main Building, Dilliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAAC License; c) Contract Agreement and Certificate of Completion/Acceptance of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 shall be received only from authorized representatives.

C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.

D. Deadline for submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on November 9, 2001. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 13, 2001, 10:00 AM at the Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.

E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formality of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI - Oct. 25, 30 & Nov. 8, 2001)

HEADQUARTERS ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER

V. Luna Road, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The AFP Medical Center invites bidders to Pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

- a. Janitorial Services
- b. Laundry Services

Pre-bid conference will be held on 9:00 a.m. 06 November 2001 at the AFPMC Conference Room, AFP Medical Center, V. Luna Road, Quezon City. Failure to attend the Pre-bid conference on the specified time and date automatically disqualifies any bidder to participate in the bidding.

The AFP Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO D. BERNARDO
Colonel MC (GSC)
Chairman, BNAC

(PDI - Oct. 26, 29 & 30, 2001)

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.



Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET

OBITUARIES

AURELIO HENSON DIZON

Has joined his Creator into the loving embrace of his parents Paciano Dizon and Gertrudis Henson Dizon on October 25, 2001 at the age of 72.

His bereaved sisters, brother and in-laws **Priscila (†)** and **Fausto (†)**, **Pura** and **Bienvenido (†)**, **Siervo** and **Erlinda**; his nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Parish Mortuary, Philamlife Homes, Quezon City, where Holy Mass will be celebrated daily at 7:00 PM.

Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, November 3, 2001 at 8:30 AM.

Interment will follow at the North Cemetery.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN •

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027

ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 Telefax 641-1760

AUREA QUIQUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tel. # (075) 522-3151 / 522-2128

CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortune Street,
Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivert Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Campus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Gaisan, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705;
781-3688; 413-9400; 718-5594

DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Katiklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086;
(047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City;
Tel. 894-5932 to 34

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinaluphan St.,
Manugut, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133;
Fax No. 711-3064

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion,
Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 281-2663; 281-3034; 281-0522

FUNERARIA PANGOLINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St.,
Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 / (045) 322-5247

R. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

FUNERARIA ANGELO QUIQUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City;
Tels. 641-7609; 641-1735

M. Almada St., Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-3010; 633-3802

FUNERARIA SAMSON, INC.
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite
Tels. (046) 471-3375 / 471-2675

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 9011
Tel. # (044) 784-0281 / 878-0288
Cell No. (0917) 895-0553

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calaadang Bego, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6181 to 82

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680135; (0917) 5680145

DE LIQUORI PARISH
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City
Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4705

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilan Rd., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-3337

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tel. 895-1011 to 19

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Highway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels. 645-1855; 682-0208; 682-0210

MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arelano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; 522-8783;
(0919) 348-7131

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City, Tel. 433-7132

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City
Tels. 631-1204

SUCAT BRANCH: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave.,
Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376 / 826-9682

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY
Magallanes Village, Makati City;
Tels. 852-6228; 852-7284

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
18-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3579; 781-1772

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
299 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5500

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3707; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836

WELLINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Pasig, Manila
Tels. 522-8946 / 522-9438 / 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: • Copy of Death Certificate • Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

In Loving Memory

On the 9th Death Anniversary of

JAIME V. DY BUNCIOHoly Masses will be offered in his memory today,
October 30, 2001 at:

Mary the Queen Church
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 6:00 PM
Santuario de San Jose
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 6:15 AM
Christ The King Church
Greenmeadows Ave., Q.C. 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, Q.C. 7:00 AM
Santuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati City 6:00 PM
St. John Bosco Church
Pasay Road, Makati City 7:30 AM
St. Francis de Assisi Parish
Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City 6:00 PM

His family and relatives would like to request friends and relatives to remember him in their prayers.

Message of Thanks**A. STEVE M. BALCON II**

March 03, 1973 - September 20, 2001

His wife LIEZL; children MIA, LUIS and RAFFY; parents STEVE and VANGIE; sister DENDEN, wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, attended the funeral rites and who, in countless ways, consoled with and comforted them in their hour of bereavement.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.**RENATO "TATO" EUSEBIO**Peacefully joined his Lord and Father
on October 29, 2001 at the age of 55.

His bereaved mother Amanda M. Eusebio; wife Tess; children Bon, Ara, Trina and Marc; sisters Aida and Chiqui; brother Pepe; brother-in-law Eddie Panlilio; nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Friday, November 2, 2001 at the San Fernando Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Message of Thanks

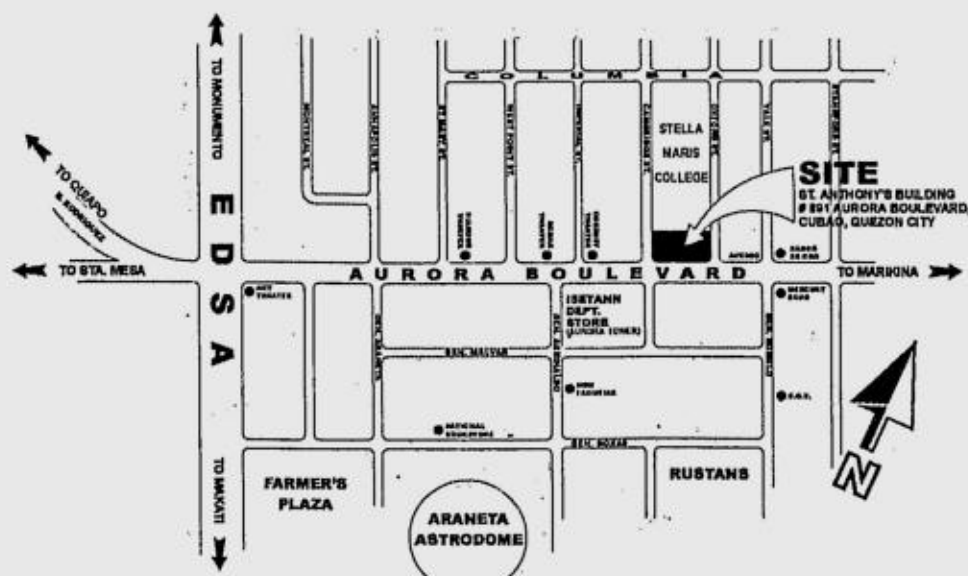
The Family of

COL. MANUEL V. REYES (RET.)

wish to thank all those who mourned with them and gave them comfort and solace in their time of bereavement.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort...

(2 Corinthians 1:3)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDSAurora branch is now open to serve your
Classified Ads requirements.For inquiries, please call **912-9008 to 11****Dearly Beloved****Eufronio Ayson Ong**Founder and Chairman
Columbia Wire and Cable Corp.Chairman
Builders Steel Corp.

Born on the 25th of November 1919

Peacefully joined our Creator on the 28th of October 2001 at the age of 82.

Loving husband to **Esperanza**
Beloved father to **Teresita, Judy and Stephen**
and sons-in-law **Jimmy and Willington**
and daughter-in-law **Elizabeth**Endearing grandfather to
Jan Kristine and Jennifer Jones
Jon Wilbur, Janis Willa and Jed Warrick
Stevenson and Stephanie Grace

With hardwork and perseverance he fulfilled his dreams and aspirations. With his many blessings, he shared his good fortune with people from all walks of life. He was a good friend and advisor, serving the Lord with the utmost respect for human life and dignity. Love for family was his lifeblood, his inspiration. After his passing, we pray that he shall be able to look after us always. We humbly request you to pray for him on his journey with our Lord.

"We love you and miss you dearly."

*"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this:
He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun." - Psalm 37:5-6*His earthly remains lie in state at the Solace Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment to be announced later.**SK RENATO TADURAN TURIANO, M.D.**Iriga City and Daet, Camarines Norte
(pfn)PFN-W.Q. Vinzons Assembly K of C
PP-Rotary Club of Daet NorthPeacefully joined his Creator on October 29, 2001
at the age of 65 at the Philippine Heart Center Hospital.His loving wife **LUDY SARTE**; children **RUBY & TEDDY RAMORES, MARIANO & MALOU, RENATO JR., PRUDENCE, JOSE & MAE, PAUL & JOY, PETER & MIA, DINO & ELSIE, CARLA, CAROLYN, GRACE** and **CHRISTINA**; grandchildren, brothers and sisters-in-law, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at San Fernando Funeral Homes, 167 Kaingin Road, Brgy. Samson, Balintawak, Quezon City.

His remains will be transferred to Iriga City on October 31, 2001.

Interment will be on November 6, 2001 at the Iriga City Catholic Cemetery.

ATTY. CARLOS KANAPI CATOLICO, SR.of Tuguegarao, Cagayan & Manila
(April 3, 1931 - October 27, 2001)

Son of the late Saturnina & Alfredo Catolico

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 27, 2001 at the age of 70.
Prayers for the eternal repose of his soul are requested by:His loving wife
ChildrenGrandchild
Brothers

Sisters

Naty Guevara Catolico
Carlos Catolico Jr.
Cecilia & Renato Ciubal
Corazon Catolico & Edwin Silla (USA)
Edric (USA)
Pichoy & Olga (†) Catolico
Tom & Remy Catolico
Bing & Anna Catolico
Marvie & Joe Klock
Fami & Bob Leyba
Suki & Buddy Ungson

Other relatives, brothers & sisters-in-law.

His remains lie in state at Christ The King Parish, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City.
Daily Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Cremation will be at 12:00 noon, Sunday, November 4, 2001 after the 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass.

Creba scores land use bill

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders' Associations (Creba) yesterday warned that the bill for a "National Land Use Act" recently filed in the House of Representatives would result in a complete economic standstill.

Creba said that House Bill 3256 filed by Rep. Loretta Rosales, although purportedly aimed to promote a rational land use allocation, is actually so crafted as to place virtually all of the country's lands under the scope of the agrarian reform program, and prevent any nonagricultural development activity.

Provisions

Creba said that this is evident in the following provisions of the Bill:

- The term "agricultural lands" is being redefined to include even those lands which have been set aside for nonagricultural uses under existing laws and local ordinances, or are currently excluded from the CARP and the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act by virtue of Republic Act 6657,

RA 8435 and the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court in various cases.

- Virtually all lands—whether lowland or highland, and whether or not irrigated or irrigable—are to be mapped and included in the so-called Network of Protected Areas for Agriculture and Agro-Industrial Development (NPAAD). The NPAAD will also include all lands for which notices of CARP coverage have been issued, regardless of whether or not such issuances have legal basis.

- All these lands included in the NPAAD can neither be converted by the DAR, nor reclassified by the LGUs, for nonagricultural development purposes.

- Any LGU reclassification involving these lands would be subject to severe penalties, including imprisonment of up to 12 years for the local officials concerned.

- All these lands are to be maintained under CARP coverage.

Should this bill be enacted, Creba said, the country would be reduced to a purely agricultural economy.

While the bill ostensibly contains provisions on settlements and housing, infrastructure, tourism and industrial development, these provisions are but meaningless window dressing, since practically no land will be made available for any of these purposes, Creba stressed.

Sinister move

Creba also said that there appears to be a sinister move to railroad passage of the bill, considering that Representative Rosales, as presiding officer of the technical group working on the measure, barred lawyer Manuel M. Serrano, Creba founder and chair, from discussing its adverse economic and legal implications in last Thursday's meeting of the inter-agency group.

Creba also pointed out that if the real goal is to promote food security and agricultural self-sufficiency, experience in several countries demonstrate that

this can best be achieved by many other means, without having to preserve all lands exclusively for agriculture.

However, Creba said, if the intent is to further uplift the lot of the peasantry this can and should be pursued without totally sacrificing the interest of all other sectors of the economy and society.

For, Creba stressed, out of the country's total population of some 75 million, only some three million are farmers, as against more than 4.5 million homeless poor families in urban areas who need land for their dwellings, millions of nonagricultural workers who depend on industrial and commercial activity for their livelihood, and millions of consumers who need goods and services that agriculture or agrarian reform cannot provide.

Should Congress allow itself to be railroad into enacting this bill, wittingly or unwittingly, it would be guilty not only of economic sabotage, but of violating the Constitution on several counts as well, Creba added.



SALES OFFICE NOW OPEN

Housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. recently inaugurated its on-site sales office for the newest expansion phase of the highly popular Laguna BelAir township development in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Located near the entrance gate of Laguna BelAir III, the sales office will be manned by Empire East's real estate consultants who will brief interested buyers about the features of the new village as well as the flexible payment schemes available to them.

New standard for memorial parks

JUST when Filipinos have grown familiar with the handful of prominent memorial parks and companies in the country, along comes another development that is destined to be on a class of its own, elevating the standards of what a haven for our departed loved ones should be: The Heritage Park.

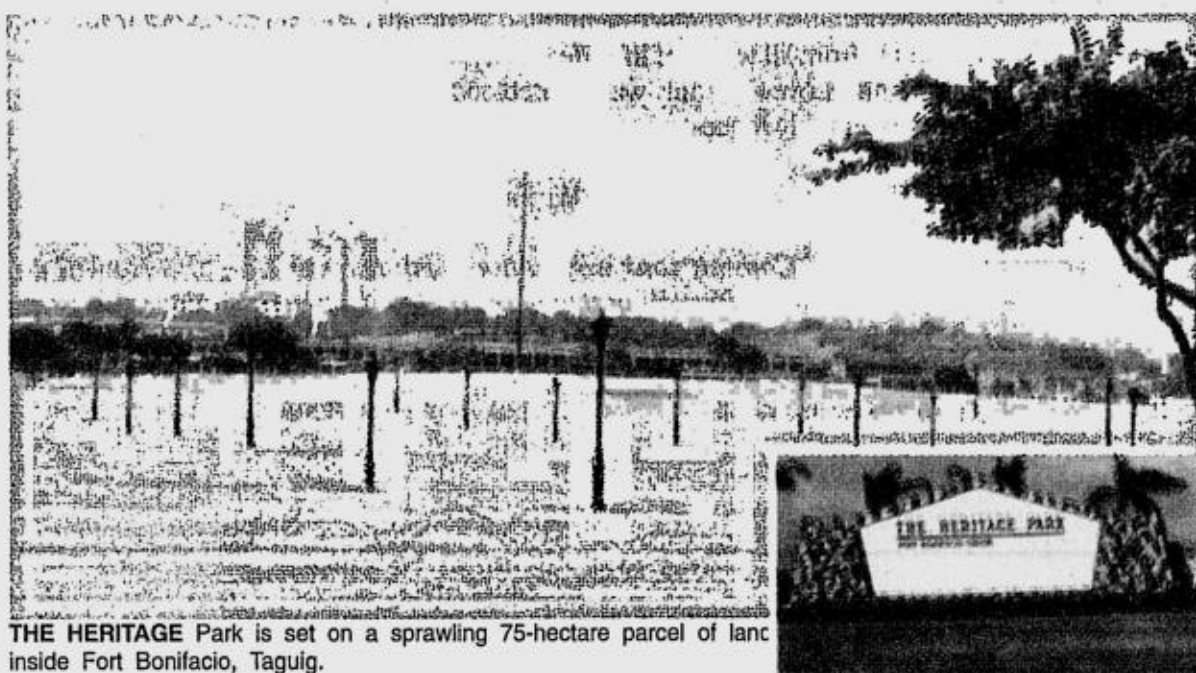
The Heritage Park is master-planned as a high-value, multiuse memorial park complex that's replete with the most ideal environmental flourishes, esthetic landmarks, and modern interment services and facilities. It also dedicates itself to the preservation and propagation of natural legacies and cultural wealth of the country.

Various zones

Set on a sprawling 76-hectare parcel of land inside Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, The Heritage Park will be divided into various zones depicting the mixed cultural background of the Filipino nation. Vertical development will also include places of worship and vigil areas, landmarks and other park amenities for public patronage and benefit.

Sprawling landscaped terrains, wide roads, promenades, gardens and a lagoon surrounding an island help achieve the balance between remembrance of the dear departed and affirmation of life for the living. There are spacious lawns and gardens for traditional burials and custom, private estates and mausoleum areas.

Being located inside the fast-rising Bonifacio Global City, it is the only memorial park accessible from three



THE HERITAGE Park is set on a sprawling 75-hectare parcel of land inside Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

major thoroughfares: Edsa via McKinley Road, South Superhighway via Lawton Avenue and C-5. It is within the proximity of residential villages such as Forbes Park, Dasmariñas Villages, Bel-Air, San Lorenzo and Magallanes, and half an hour away from the villages of Pasig and Alabang.

Commitment to serve

Matching the efficient maintenance of Heritage Park is its commitment to serve, as it offers a comprehensive line of products and services. The Heritage

Park provides best services and care for those in need, and employ counselors to privately assist families with their final arrangements, from date and location of service, selection of memorialization products and interment services.

What makes The Heritage Park even more distinctive is that it is established with a Perpetual Care Fund, held in trust for the sole purpose of perpetual maintenance, upkeep and continued enhancement of the park to ensure its

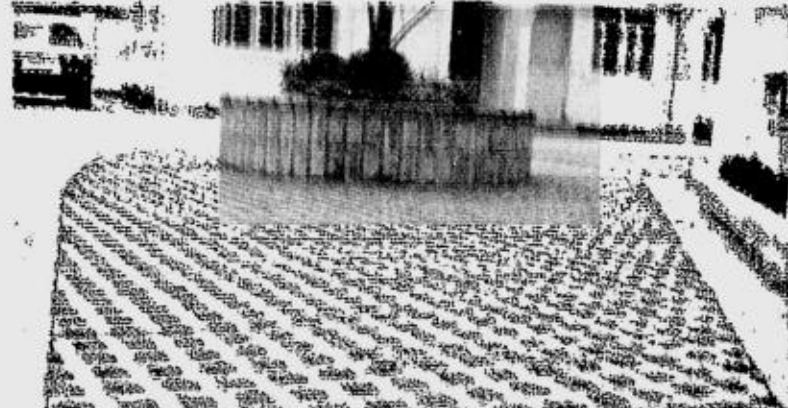
long-term maintenance and care, thereby freeing lot owners from the financial burden and worry of maintenance of their interment lots.

Witness this highly amenable paradise of memories unfolding right at the heart of Metro Manila. The Heritage Park is operated and managed by Rosehills Memorial Management Inc., a local affiliate of a leading US-based cemetery and mortuary company. For more details, visit www.heritagepark.com.ph.

NEW LANDSCAPING

Environment-friendly Vazpave grass pavers help keep the parking space of the Iglesia ni Cristo Chapel in Pag-asa, Quezon City, clean and green and mud-free during the rainy season as well as dust-free during summer.

Manufactured by Vazquez Commodities (Vazcom), the Vazpave grass pavers allow controlled grass growth and adequate protection from soil erosion.



Maintenance-free concrete floors at S&R Price stores

ASHFORD Formula, America's acknowledged king of concrete floor protection, continues its long-running service to one of America's largest retail chains—S&R Price (Costco in the United States)—which is now launching its US-standard stores in the Philippines. Its first, with a floor space of more than 5,000 square meters, is located in Fort Bonifacio; while its second, will serve the Cainta, Rizal corridor. And more of this "stateside-quality" shoppers' paradise are on the pipeline to provide more communities with a higher level of shopping standards.

But while S&R Price knows that heavy customer traffic spell good revenues, it also realizes that the attendant feet pounding, shopping carts rolling and forklifts continually moving will eventually take its toll on unprotected concrete floors—causing maintenance intensive damages. That's why Ashford Formula is used to treat and protect S&R Price's concrete floors.

Warranty-backed protection

Ashford Formula works by reacting to moisture and chemical agents in concrete, reducing air space to a size that bars moisture yet still allowing the concrete to breathe. After treatment, the concrete is densified, hardened, sealed and dust- and water-proofed, thus giving it a 20-year warranty-backed protection from cracks and ruts. That's why even when the concrete floor is exposed to fish and meat liquid drippings, it does not absorb moisture that produces a wet market stench. Further-

more, a simple mop and bucket of water cleaning system replaces the need for constant stripping, cleaning, waxing and buffing; thus, freeing up a considerable amount of manpower time and resources for S&R Price.

Most trusted

What's more amazing is that the more traffic abuse or abrasion on Ashford Formula-protected concrete floors, the shinier the floor gets! That's why Ashford Formula is considered, since 1947, as the most trusted concrete protector by America's top companies such as Coca-Cola and Coors (warehouses with tons-heavy racks), Kraft and Kellogg's (high-sanitation food processing), Keebler and Van de Camp (exposure to bakery fats and oils), Oscar Mayer (wet meat processing), Intel (dust-free clean rooms), GM Saturn (automotive plant), and United Airlines hangars.

Compared with alternative floor protectors like ceramic and vinyl tiles, and epoxy coating, Ashford Formula-protected concrete floors do not crack, peel or tear. Indeed, a small investment in Ashford Formula translates to significant savings in operating expenses as it effectively protects the long-term value of entire facilities at practically no added maintenance or repair cost.

In the Philippines, Ashford Formula is exclusively distributed and handled by Tradetec Resources Inc. For more information call Tradetec at 810-2991 to 95 or e-mail at tradetec@info.com.ph. For further technical details, visit www.ashfordformula.com.

Condo management seminar

A PROFESSIONAL development seminar on "Condominium Management" is slated on Nov. 21 and 23, Wednesday and Friday, at 6-9 p.m., to be held at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center, Acedo Building, Benavidez Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

This 2-day comprehensive program is presented by the Philippine Association

of Building Administrators Inc. (Paba), jointly with the Condominium Management Association of the Philippines Inc. (CMAP), in cooperation with the Philippine Institute of Building Management Foundation Inc. according to Paba and CMAP president Val S. Abeng.

For inquiries, call up the secretariat at 819-2656 and 892-6037 or fax at 893-0155 or e-mail at paba@pacific.net.ph.

(From page B12)

Technology Fair 2001 titled "Teknolohiya sa Pabahay na Abot Kaya" held recently at the Manila Midtown Hotel revealed their simple answer to the problem: give new socialized housing technologies a chance. This is also their alternative to the conventional "brick and mortar" technology using cement and hollow blocks that take too long to construct.

The organizers of the fair include the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the National Housing Authority, Pag-Ibig, the National Real Estate Association, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and civic organizations. They believe that the country should encourage non-conventional or innovative technologies, which are inexpensive but durable, to "pump prime production."

Pump priming production would also mean pump priming the economy because of the multiplier effect constructing houses generates. The construction of houses affects 65 other

Seminar offers real estate opportunities

MANY of those who want to earn additional income turn to selling real estate. In response to this trend, many realty organizations are conducting real estate seminars and reviews to prepare individuals who will take the real estate examination on Nov. 25 at the PSBA in Quezon City.

One of the outstanding seminars in the market is the course prepared by the Pasay-Makati Realtors Board Inc. (PMRB), a pioneer in real estate education now headed by lawyer Ariel T.

Martinez, its president.

The PMRB, now on its 42nd year, is the most established realtor-organization in the country, which pioneered in the real estate professional education. It has maintained its high standard and focuses on quality education. It continuously draws a wide spectrum of participants, even outside Metro Manila.

Majority of those who attended the seminar and passed the examination, are now having profitable careers in real estate. PMRB's 52nd Comprehensive Real

Estate Seminar and Review will be held on Nov. 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19 and 21, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

All lecture materials will be provided. For more information, please call up PMRB secretariat at 893-0569 and 893-0585 or e-mail: pmrb@broline.com. Registration is now ongoing at Unit 502-P Parking Building, Cityland 10, H.V. dela Costa Street, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Technology to bring housing prices down

(From page B12)

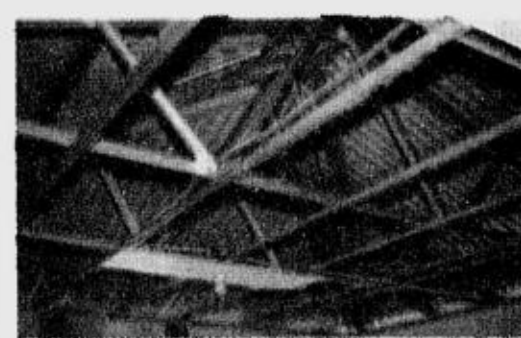
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The organizers of the fair include the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the National Housing Authority, Pag-Ibig, the National Real Estate Association, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and civic organizations. They believe that the country should encourage non-conventional or innovative technologies, which are inexpensive but durable, to "pump prime production."

Pump priming production would also mean pump priming the economy because of the multiplier effect constructing houses generates. The construction of houses affects 65 other



NO PAINT NEEDED. Esthetically-pleasing structure like this could cost P100,000. Datem Construction, however, accepts job orders by volume only.



HOW IT LOOKS INSIDE. Using foreign building system and local materials, this low-cost housing interior looks equally homey.

industries such as cement, construction, wood, steel, lumber and employment.

Technology providers and exhibitors during the fair flaunted technologies that could build houses in as little as four days for as low as P46,000 to P70,000 including labor and materials. Other standard socialized housing units could be built for P98,000, P165,000 or P180,000.

New technologies

Innovative technologies in housing,

said HUDCC, would also address the daunting mass housing backlog.

"There are new technologies that will only entail four days to complete construction units," said Lucille Ortile, deputy secretary general of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

Ortile cited some of her favorites among the exhibitors. Pagtambayayong, a nongovernment organization-initiated technology for the poor, uses local materials that highlight durability and affordability.

Pagtambayayong houses, she observed, could be built for as low as P70,000, depending on the design.

Ortile also cited an Australian technology using local materials.

Datem Construction, the Philippine agent of Australia-based Trustek and Conclad Construction, uses local materials but applies the foreign technology and machinery. Its Conclad building system uses strong steel frames with precast concrete panels to provide quick-to-erect and structurally sound building systems that need no paint jobs.

A bare type unit including roofing, flooring and foundation would cost P3,300 per sq. m. Each house could be built in as soon as five days.

On the other hand, construction of a 29-sq.-m single detached unit, with white sand, precast concrete panels clad to

metal frame wall system with an existing electrical system could cost about P100,000, said Rodol Lustre, computer-aided drafting design operator of Datem Construction.

The National Housing Authority, revealed Lustre, used Datem Construction's materials and labor for its mass housing projects, including a 50,000-unit project in NHA Quezon City. Datem takes job orders by volume only.

Wall panels

The Philippine Ecopanel, meanwhile, boasts of fiber cement interlocking wall panels with hollow cores. The panel surface is prefinished. Its compressive strength is 2,175 to 3000 psi (pounds per square inch). The material costs P400 per sq. m. It can build a complete structure within 15 days.

A 22-sq.-m core home, for instance, could cost P135,000, including labor and materials. Owners are expected to provide the lot where the house can be built. A core home, however, has no interior and exterior paint applied yet, no vinyl tiling and no ceiling.

It is currently promoting Filcon model units with a finished package of ecopanel walls, exterior and interior walls, steel roof framing with a number 26 GI sheet, corrugated roofing/plumbing; conduits, 1 set toilet bowl and share; fixtures. It has a kitchen sink and counter, floor slab and footing, septic; vault, ceiling and floor tiling.

Architects urge use of substitutes for asbestos-laden materials

THE INFLUENTIAL United Architects of the Philippines has urged all its 2,000-strong members and all sectors to find and use "viable alternative construction materials and products—if the use of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials cannot be made safe."

In a resolution signed at the recent "Balangkas Forum" held recently in Quezon City, the architects pointed out: "It is a proven fact that exposure to asbestos is harmful to the human body, particularly in cases of prolonged exposure to asbestos or asbestos-containing materials (ACMs)."

Fitting conclusion

The resolution served as a fitting conclusion to a forum featuring as principal discussants Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. (represented by Bureau of Product Standards Director Jesus Mutoomull), former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto R. Yasay Jr., and James Hardie Philippines president John Balass. The UAP was represented by architect Armin Sarthou, national executive vice president.

The forum was organized by the UAP in cooperation with UAP District A-4 headed by Virgilio Andres and UAP Elliptical Chapter led by Virgilio Regala, and was dubbed "Ensuring an Asbestos-Free Environment." Architect Michael Tomeldan, Balangkas committee chair, said the symposium was "organized to promote consumer awareness of the wide range of issues surrounding asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) and the risks these products pose."

Public info campaign

In the same resolution, the UAP said it would spearhead a public information campaign for the construction industry sector. "We will exert serious effort and enlist the support of tri-media in making the public aware of the health hazards relative to exposure to asbestos and ACMs, where such an exposure may occur and which sectors are at risk."

"There is a definite need to educate and/or inform the public about the existence, types and forms of asbestos and ACMs around us and of the real danger of coming into regular contact with it," the UAP stated.

Existing laws, regulations

The UAP noted that there is an "existing law (Toxic Substances Act of 1990 or Republic Act 6969) and a standing Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order 2000-02 (Asbestos Chemical Control Order)," but added that it would urge the "government to implement existing laws and standing orders to regulate and to make safe the use of asbestos and ACMs"; and failing that, "to identify and promote viable alternatives."

Tomeldan said the forum gave the UAP the opportunity to note existing laws and regulations and to determine whether these provide adequate protection for the health and safety of Filipinos, pointing out that "architects should be fully informed about the risks posed by certain construction materials before we even recommend their use."

Alternative products

Balangkas participants discussed the need to use alternative products already existing in the market. They suggested that increased effort be made to develop substitutes for asbestos, so that the country will be "truly free from harmful substances that poison our bodies and the people's well being."

It will be recalled that the call to hold a serious discussion on the asbestos issue was first voiced by Andres and Regala, following published reports that the cause-oriented Foundation for National Development had written the Department of Environment and Natural Resources inquiring about the status of a draft Chemical Control Order totally banning asbestos from the local market—in view of medical studies and research that show asbestos can cause cancer and other lung ailments.

This concern was echoed by Yasay who noted the "surreptitious reentry of asbestos into the country" and called for government, civil society, business and consumers to be more vigilant, warning the public against the use of harmful construction materials and other products with asbestos.

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Condo developer's petition denied

A PETITION for review filed by Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. failed to prosper when the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board upheld anew its earlier decision in favor of complainant Betty Alejandro Cepeda. The case stemmed from Rightfield's inability to complete and deliver two Dansalan Garden units, on the agreed dates of December 1997 and subsequently, November 1998.

After two and a half years of protracted negotiations during which time the aggrieved buyer could not secure a refund of payments with interest, the HLURB directed Universal Rightfield in June 2000 to provide a replacement unit of Cepeda's choice in any of the developer's other condominium projects subject to the same terms, conditions and privileges as the original contractual agreement. The developer was also ordered to pay interest for amortization payments already made due to the "unjustified failure of respondent to complete and deliver the units."

On June 5, 2001, Rightfield filed for review, arguing that the HLURB had "erred in ordering, in the alternative, reimbursement to the complainant of

the total payments made, including amortization interest." In the recent decision handed down by the HLURB on Rightfield's petition for review, however, the earlier finding was deemed conclusive, stating that "Respondent was in delay in the performance of the contract, contrary to its representations to the complainant..." and "This delay, mainly attributable to the fault of respondent, entitles complainant Cepeda to rescind the Contract to Sell."

In its decision the HLURB also cited Article 1191 of the Civil Code which states in part that "The injured party may choose between the fulfillment and the rescission of the obligation, with payment of damages in either case. He may also seek rescission even after he has chosen fulfillment, should the latter become impossible." Citing the case of Eastern Shipping Lines vs Court of Appeals (234 SCRA 78) which is applicable, the HLURB further stated that "when the judgment of the court awarding a sum of money becomes final and executory, the rate of legal interest shall be 12 percent per annum from such finality until its satisfaction."

Philip Recto awardee off to Singapore

THE PHILIP Recto Design Excellence Awards instituted by the UP College of Architecture announced that Ingrid Niña Pamela Araneta, one of its awardees, left yesterday for Singapore to be trained at Architects 61, one of the most prestigious architectural firms in Asia.

Araneta is a magna cum laude graduate and class valedictorian of batch 2001. Her thesis titled "National Center for Tuberculosis Research and Control" prepared jointly with Christine Bernardo got the top mark during the thesis deliberation. She will start her 2-year training with Architects 61 on Nov. 1 and join Ligaya Maceda, last year's Philip Recto awardee, at the same firm.

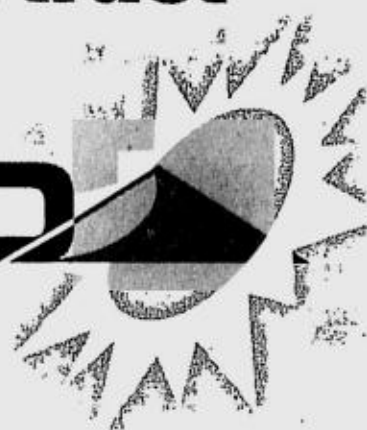
Founded in 1974, Architects 61 has designed many significant buildings in Singapore, among them are the Raffles City Complex, Treasury Building, UOB Plaza, Caltex House and UE Square. Their current projects include the Singapore Exchange Center, Fullerton Square and Tins Technology Park. The firm also has associate offices in Kuala Lumpur and Penang.



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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Technology to bring housing prices down

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THERE is something in common about these four situations. Read on and

try to find out:

Situation 1: An employee has been working 9 to 5 for more than 10 years, but he still comes home to his parents' house, occupying the same room he had

since he was born.

Situation 2: A husband-and-wife team has been working full time to save up for their own house. Years have passed, but still their savings

are not enough.

Situation 3: You've been renting an apartment for five years. You've paid your landlord enough rent to buy a small house. But you still don't own one.

Situation 4: The government finds out it needs 3.6 million houses more to fill the socialized housing backlog.

It should be obvious by now. All these situations point to one common

problem: houses. They're too expensive and taking too long to make.

Simple answer

The organizers of the Housing TECHNOLOGY/B10

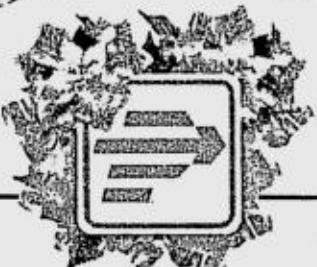


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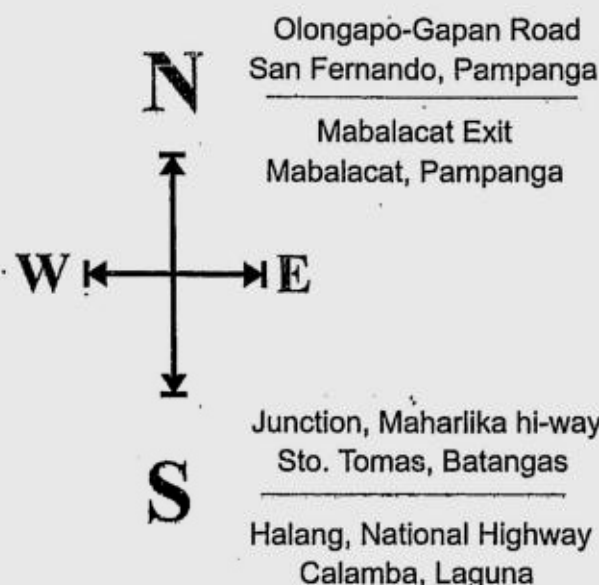
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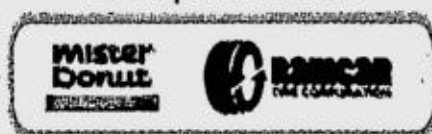


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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Jackielou Blanco's fine lines

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

ACTRESS Jackielou Blanco has been a powerpuff babe for the last four years. The diminutive award-winning actress belies an unbelievable strength that she carries with grace in her 5'2" frame. Doing leg press exercises on an 80-pound equipment and lateral pull-down routines on a 50-pound machine, men of a lesser caliber would be put to shame.

"I had been there, done that. When you've lost all the unnecessary weight, what's next?" she says. "One day, around 1997, after I had given birth to my youngest daughter, I bumped into Christine Yu, my former aerobics teacher whom I had seen just the year before. My God! I was so impressed with the changes I saw in her physique. She was so toned, so well-defined." So impressed was she that in a matter of weeks, she began serious training with Christine whom she continues to see twice or three a week. The results on Jackie have been equally impressive as well.

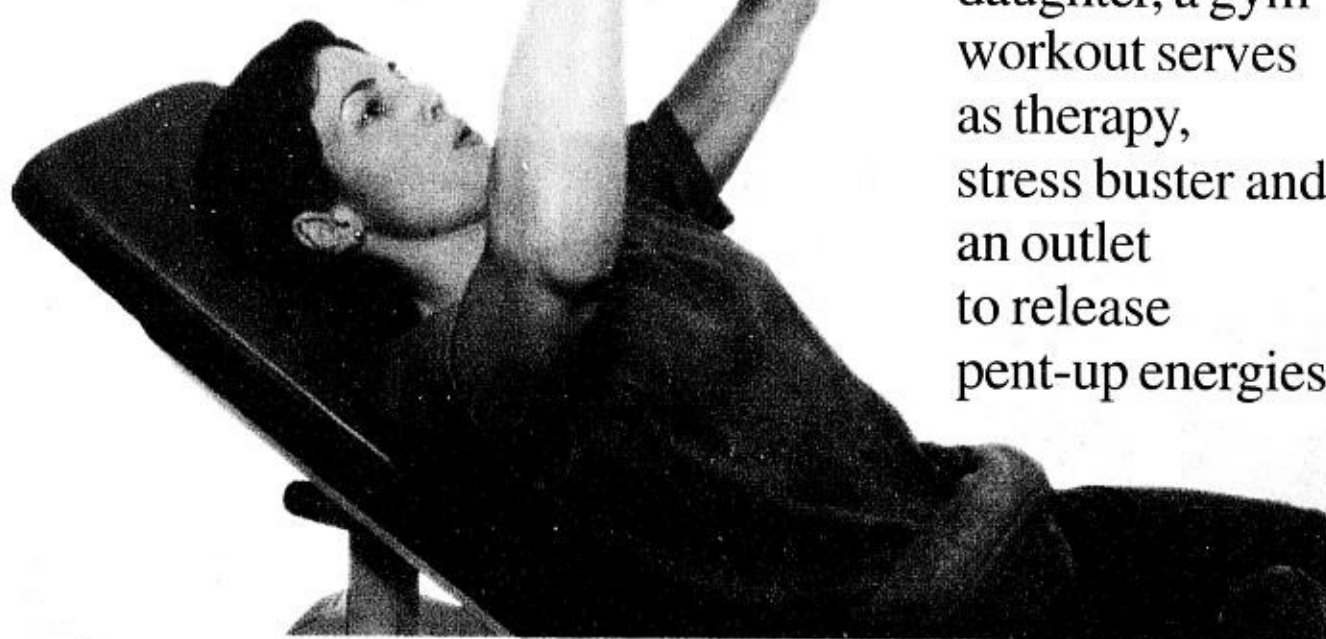
Working out at either Slimmer's World or the Excel Gym in Megamall, Jackie is lean and mean. She is

JACKIELOU/p.C2



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For Pilita Corrales' daughter, a gym workout serves as therapy, stress buster and an outlet to release pent-up energies



PUMPING IRON. Jackie shows off her form.

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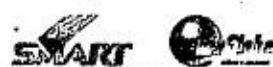
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Hygiene programs for young Filipinas

A YOUNG lady's life is bound to change when her first period arrives. It is at this stage that the "Starting Right! To Be a Responsive Filipina" program comes in.

Initiated by Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc., in partnership with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, "Starting Right!" is a program that enables Health Science teachers and school nurses to educate their students on proper feminine care and hygiene. To date, it has become a part of some schools' curriculum on health development.

Now on its 13th year of implementation, the "Starting Right!" campaign will visit over 400 schools in Metro Manila and educate more than 60,000 students in three months. While in the provincial areas, the Nurses' Annual Training Course will also be conducted to aide school nurses on the "Starting Right!" program. In 12 years, the program has already reached 10 million schools nationwide and has trained 10,000 educators across the country.

Through the years, young women have been guided by the "Starting Right!" program on matters regarding menstruation and feminine care and hygiene. For a young girl, having that first flow of blood can be frightening, which is why it really pays to know the facts and fallacies on menstrual care straight from the experts in school.

Because of this, Kimberly-Clark—one of the country's premier manufacturers of feminine products—has always sought to educate young girls on their journey to womanhood.

Through the program, young ladies, particularly those in Grades 5 and 6, will be taught hygiene and good grooming. The program aims to help them develop into healthy, well-rounded and confident



PHYSIOLOGICAL CHANGES. Dr. Laura Aguilar-Yumul, an OB-gynecologist of the Villamor Air Force Hospital, lectures on "Physiological Changes during Adolescence" during the Teachers' Annual Training Course at the Limits Entertainment Hall, Robinsons Galleria.

young women.

The school visits carry an informative format intertwined with the fun element. An infomercial on "Starting Right!" which tackles the menstrual cycle, tips on good grooming as well as the proper feminine napkin to use during their period—will be viewed by students during the start of the session. A short lecture and forum will then follow, encouraging students to ask questions regarding menstruation and other related topics.

Interactive games will be featured, and the program's jingle, "Cool to be teen, cool to be clean" will be taught to students. The three-minute jingle was sang by Aiza Seguerra.

During the school tour, Kimberly-Clark will also be providing instructional materials such as flipcharts and teacher-child-parent workbooks to be utilized during classroom sessions.



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- Power up an hour or two daily with Avon Active exercise and fitness apparel and accessories. Designed to help women in their workouts at home or in the gym.

- End their day in relaxation with Avon Senses aromatherapy products, formulated to soothe body and mind.

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Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.



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I recently had an emergency treatment in a non-accredited hospital and would like to file for reimbursement. I already have all required documents, which took sometime for me to compile. Is there a required period for filing?

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Meet your MEDICard Team



Otorhinolaryngologist, Dr. Francisco A. Victoria is MEDICard's accredited specialist in Medical Center Manila (MCM). Dr. Victoria is a graduate of Medicine from UST. He earned his postgraduate internship from the AFP Medical Center and his residency training on his specialization from the Ospital ng Maynila. Doc Francisco is an active affiliate to various medical associations and is currently a faculty member for the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. Dr. Victoria keeps himself updated on the developments of his profession by frequently attending post-graduate courses, conventions and seminars here and abroad. Visit Doc Francisco for your medical needs at room 301 of MCM from Mondays to Saturdays, 1 to 6 PM.



Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Alfredo T. Lim Jr. is MEDICard's accredited specialist based in St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC). Dr. Lim, who has been a MEDICard accredited specialist for 2 years now, earned his degree in Medicine from UST. He currently holds a Fellowship degree to the Philippine Orthopedic Association and the Philippine College of Surgeons. For your consultation needs, visit Dr. Lim at room 514, the Medical Arts Bldg. of SLMC every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 6 PM.



A recent addition to MEDICard's roster of accredited providers based in Lipa Medix Medical Clinic in Batangas is Medical Coordinator, Dr. Teresita C. Andal. "Doktora Tita" as fondly called by her patients, is a graduate of Medicine from UERM-MMC specializing in Family Medicine. She also subspecializes in Industrial Medicine where she received her training from UP-PGH. Doc Tita is married with three children and spends most of her free time with her family. Look for Dr. Andal for all your medical needs in Lipa Medix Medical Clinic.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.



Jackielou Blanco's fine lines

(From page C1)

a no-fuss athlete who is as serious with her workout as she is with honing her craft. After taking her children to school, she hies off to the gym to sweat it out until it's time to pick them up. "I usually start at around 7 a.m. and done by 10. There's still time to do errands before my youngest gets off at noon." Jackie goes about her activities with great intensity. Christine guides her during the workout every other day. "My trainer knows which buttons to push," she says of Christine who knows how to motivate her client.

Daily regimen

Her daily regimen is composed of strength training and aerobics. An hour of weights covers exercises that work the back and triceps, chest area and biceps, legs and shoulders. Jackie usually does three sets of 20-30 repetitions each. This routine is followed by 30-45 minutes on either the stepper or bike and the treadmill. It is ended with exercises for the abdominal region—and Jackie's, after three babies and four years of training, is as flat as a board. "I've never really been mapuson and I find that leg raises or sit-ups work best for me," she says.

Surprisingly, Jackie doesn't follow a strict diet. "I've never really been a red meat eater. Most of the time, I take fish and chicken minus the skin and lots of vegetables and fruits. Water is a must—six to eight glasses and much more especially when I'm working out," she relates. "The key is not to let yourself get too hungry. Since my metabolism is fast, I normally get hun-



POWERPUFF BABE. Jackielou Blanco

gry every three hours. So I take a lot of small meals but I really choose what I eat," she adds. And what are the usual cravings she falls prey to? "Oh, I give in to almost anything," she says with a laugh. "If you deprive yourself too much, it will backfire."

Jackie gets a natural high from working out. "It's therapy, a great stress buster and the best way for me to release pent-up energy," she says. "There are days when I really feel terrible but after working out in the gym, I feel so much better. Parang kulang ang araw if I don't

get to work out." The actress has certainly transformed herself but not into the lean, mean muscled type who has lost the feminine edge. "I used to be thin. Now, I'm strong and toned. In the past, I would never wear sleeveless clothes. Ngayon, puede na akong mag-sleeveless at backless," she says with a good laugh.

A mother of three who keeps a busy schedule juggling home and work responsibilities, Jackie manages to maintain a healthy balance between these two domains. She's dead set in conquering new worlds by participating in a fitness competition slated later this year. Her words of wisdom to other women who aim to achieve new levels of fitness, "Don't get impatient with yourself. Be focused but don't be obsessed. The most important thing is that you enjoy what you're doing."

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



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Like its other branch in the Acropolis, it gives visitors the same pleasurable experience.

The Spa offers facial, body and massage treatments to its clients. Additional facilities, such as the fitness center and foot salon, are now operational.

The pampering services include the Ayurveda treatments from India and Javanese royal bath from Bali. Other beauty indulgences also include citrus body polish and purifying clay masque, Fango mud facial, direct from the Terme de Montecatini Spa in Italy and Phytomer facial marine cosmetics from St. Malo, France. Look forward to new treatments such as New Northern Thai massage, Asian foot therapy and Indian head massage, which will definitely soothe the senses and guarantee client satisfaction.

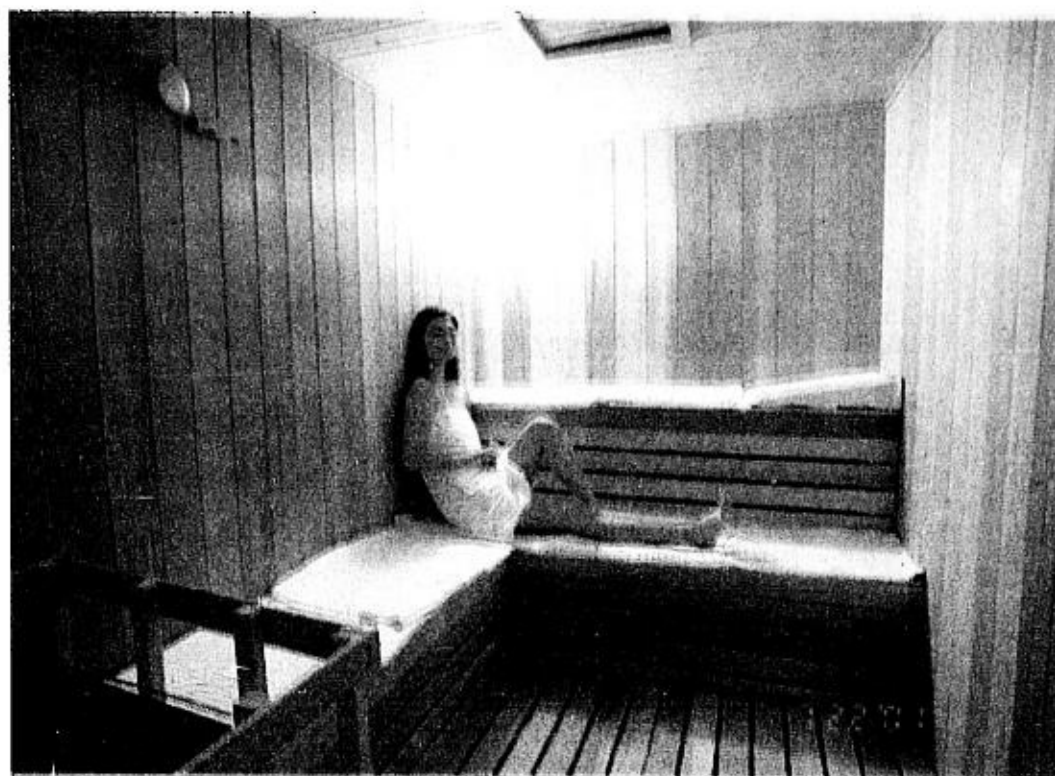
An internationally acclaimed spa consultant from Hawaii was recently in the Philippines to help train The Spa's therapists in providing the best quality of pampering their guests.

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ChapStick

Who started Halloween?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licaucio



HALLOWEEN, a western pagan custom to celebrate the day of the dead, which later on was incorporated into Christian practices, has been adopted without question by Filipinos on the other side of the globe. The practice made sense in a cold country with distinct changes in climate, but makes no sense in tropical Philippines. But this does not deter our fun-loving people from adopting the custom.

Early origins

The American Halloween celebration had its origins in Celtic tradition, which was chiefly influenced by pagan Roman folklore and the Catholic Church's attempt to Christianize them.

The ancient Celts celebrated the New Year at the start of winter, around Nov. 1. This most secret of all Celtic festivals was called Samhain (pronounced *sow'an*), which means "end of summer." The day was dedicated to the Lord of the Dead. The Celts believed that "on the eve of Samhain, the dead rose out of their graves to wander about the earth and make trouble by destroying crops and causing domestic problems."

During the darkest hours of the night, the Lord of the Dead also was believed to call up the lost souls

to be sentenced. Those who have sinned were sentenced to spend 12 months in the after life in an animal form, while good souls received another 12 months of death, although in human form. Living persons held a "Samhain Vigil" during these death hours to pray for the lost souls.

It was customary for the Celts to offer food and wine to the Lord of the Dead, so that he would be more agreeable in sentencing lost souls. Offerings were also set out for the returning dead themselves, so that they could refresh themselves, feel welcomed and therefore less inclined to cause mischief or harm.

The Celts dressed themselves in disguises to fool the spirits into passing them by. Masked villagers led parades in an effort to entice spirits out of town.

The opening between the worlds of the living and the dead was also believed by the Celts to sharpen



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

psychic perception and abilities. The Druids, the priestly caste of the Celts, performed various divination or fortune-telling rites to learn the future of the village and also to heal the sick.

Another Celtic ritual at Samhain was the lighting of huge bonfires as tribute to the waning Sun God, in an effort to rekindle his diminishing energy in the face of winter. The Celts burned horses alive, which they considered sacred to the Sun God. In the Middle Ages, cats were burned alive in wicker cages as part of All Hallow's observances.

Christian influences

When the Christian church began converting followers of pagan religions, Church authorities realized shrewdly enough that they will have tremendous opposition if they tried to ban or prohibit the pagan practices. So they did the next best thing: They incorporated and adopted the existing holy days and rites into their own. Worship of pagan deities was translated into veneration of Christian saints. Even the practice of celebrating Christmas on Dec. 25 was originally a pagan custom in celebration of the winter solstice, which the Christian church adopted into its own and gave it a Christian slant.

Samhain then became assimilated into All Saints Day and All Souls Day in the Christian calendar of holy days. All Saints Day was initiated by Pope Gregory III when he dedicated the Pantheon of Rome to St. Mary and martyred Christians on May 13, 610 A.D.

A century later, Pope Gregory IV reestablished the festival to honor the saints of St. Peter's Church and moved the date to Nov. 1 to coincide with Samhain and other pagan festivals. In 834 A.D. Pope Boniface IV made the festival honoring the dead official and was ordered to be observed by all Christian churches.

Instead of animal sacrifices, however, the Church promoted honoring the dead with prayers. Food and wine offerings were replaced with soul cakes, little square buns decorated with currants. The cakes were given away to the village's poor, who would pray for the dead.

The Church also allowed masquerading, but emphasized that it was to honor dead saints and not to frighten off spirits.

By the 10th century, Nov. 2 was observed as All Souls Day, the feast day for the dead. The holiday was approved by Pope Sylvester II around 1000 A.D. and became established throughout Europe from the 11th through the 14th centuries.

In America, Halloween celebra-

tions were scattered during colonial times. Practices varied widely depending on the dominance of a particular ethnic or religious group. Areas heavily settled by the English—such as Massachusetts, a stronghold of English Calvinists—paid little attention to Halloween, while areas with predominantly Scottish or Irish immigrants gave it more due.

The Irish had a Halloween custom of carrying lanterns made from hollowed out turnips or beets called jack-o'-lanterns or jacky lanterns, which were used to scare away spirits in the night. Immigrants to America substituted them with pumpkins.

According to folklore, the jack-o'-lantern got its name from a ne'er-do-well man named Jack, who had a run-in with the Devil. Jack thwarted the Devil several times from claiming his soul, but the devil had his way at last.

When Jack died, he could not get to heaven because of his mean and sinful ways. He went to the gates of hell, but the Devil wouldn't let him in either. Instead, the Devil tossed out a piece of coal to help Jack find his way in the dark. Jack put the coal in a turnip, and the lantern served as his light in his eternal wanderings in the after life.

In the Philippines

When the Americans came and occupied the Philippines, they introduced to the islands their custom of celebrating Halloween but in a much watered-down fashion, consisting mainly of having social masquerade parties and other merry-making activities. Children played door-to-door trick or treat for candy instead of community parties.

In the Philippines, as in America, the spiritual or religious significance of Halloween celebration has all been lost. And what has remained is an empty youthful ritual of pranks and tricks with no significance at all. It has become a time to scare everybody out of their wits with ghost stories and the like.

Instead of all these parties, let us do something more meaningful. As one author suggested, "Visit your dead relatives, light a candle and pray for the eternal repose of their souls. Make a few Samhain resolutions. Pay homage to Mother Earth or Gaia, for the beauty of the planet and for the turning of the season (or cycle) of life. And give thanks to God or Goddess for all the blessings in your life."

E-mail the author at jimmy@mkt.lzn.webling.com. Visit www.webling.com/jimmy/jimmy.html.

WARNING: FUNGAL INFECTION IS A HIGHLY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

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Back

Options

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The success of the venture gave Les Reyes, president of RHC International Inc., the company that operates Reyes Haircutters, the idea of setting up a franchise scheme to reach a wider clientele and address the growing demand for this type of salon concept. Thus RHC International was born. To date, the company now operates 38 branches in Metro Manila.

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AT THE RECENTLY concluded Franchise Conference held at the World Trade Center, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. (center) congratulates Les Reyes (second from left) in his display booth. Others in photo are (from right) Samie Lim, chair of the Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation, and Vicente Paterno, chair of the Phil. Seven Corporation.

LIFESTYLE



Common questions women ask about exercise

CAN I exercise during my menstrual period?

Yes, it is okay to work out during your period. Many women find that working out eases the symptoms of bloating, depression, lethargy and lower back pain that usually accompany menstruation.

Can I exercise if I am pregnant?

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology states that moderate exercise can be safe for both the baby and the mother-to-be provided it is a healthy, normal pregnancy.

WELL AND GOOD



Tina Aboitiz Juan

Pregnant women who exercise are less likely to have varicose veins, hemorrhoids, low-back pain and fatigue. It enhances the woman's self-esteem at a time when her body is changing shape for the worse. Exercise also seems to make labor more tolerable. However, get the go-signal from your doctor before embarking on an exercise program because there are certain conditions like placenta previa or incompetent cervix that will make exercise contraindicated during pregnancy.

How soon after giving birth can I exercise?

While the changes the body experiences in pregnancy are slow and gradual, these changes are reversed in about six weeks. Therefore, women who have normal deliveries are told to wait four to six weeks before returning to exercise, while caesarean section mothers are told to hold off exercising for six to eight weeks. The body needs time to heal whether from natural or C-section delivery.

What exercises can I do to make my breasts bigger (or smaller)?

Breasts are made of milk glands and fat. Their size is determined mostly by genetics. Exercise cannot directly increase breast size because exercise can only make muscles firmer and breasts have no muscles. However, the breasts sit on a platform or foundation of the chest muscles. Lifting weights can increase the size of these muscles, which will lift the breasts higher and will push them forward. This can make the breasts look bigger. Well-developed chest muscles can also add cleavage, particularly in the upper chest area. Gaining or losing weight can affect breast size since they are made primarily of fat so if vigorous exercise makes you lose weight, you may lose some inches on your bustline.

What do you think is better for weight loss? Aerobics or weight training?

In my opinion and a lot of research on the subject, both weights and aerobics (meaning cardiovascular activities like walking, cycling, running, etc.) are better than aerobics only or weights only. Aerobic exercise helps you burn calories and increases your efficiency to burn fat. Weight-lifting increases your muscle mass so you burn more calories throughout the whole day. Lifting weights will also shape and firm up your muscles better than aerobics can. However, don't be surprised if your body gets tighter and smaller but you haven't lost much weight on the scale. As muscles get



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

firmer and harder, they also get heavier. Don't worry. This is a sign that your body composition ratio is changing for the better—more muscle, less fat.

Will my muscles become big if I lift weights?

Women do not automatically get bulky male-like muscles from lifting weights because they lack large amounts of testosterone, the male sex hormone. So if your life's desire is to become a female Arnold Schwarzenegger, I'm sorry, but it takes very exceptional genes, years of hard work and probably a little help from anabolic steroids. Women shouldn't be afraid of lifting weights because it is one of the best ways to firm up the body, increase metabolism and build strong bones.

If I stop exercising, will my muscles turn to fat?

Muscles do not turn to fat and fat doesn't become muscles. Just like your teeth will not turn into your hair or your bones into your skin. Fat and muscles are two separate and distinct body tissues. When you stop exercising, your body will eventually revert back to its previous state. This is an example of a fitness principle called "reversibility." Fitness is not like

COMMON/ p.D4

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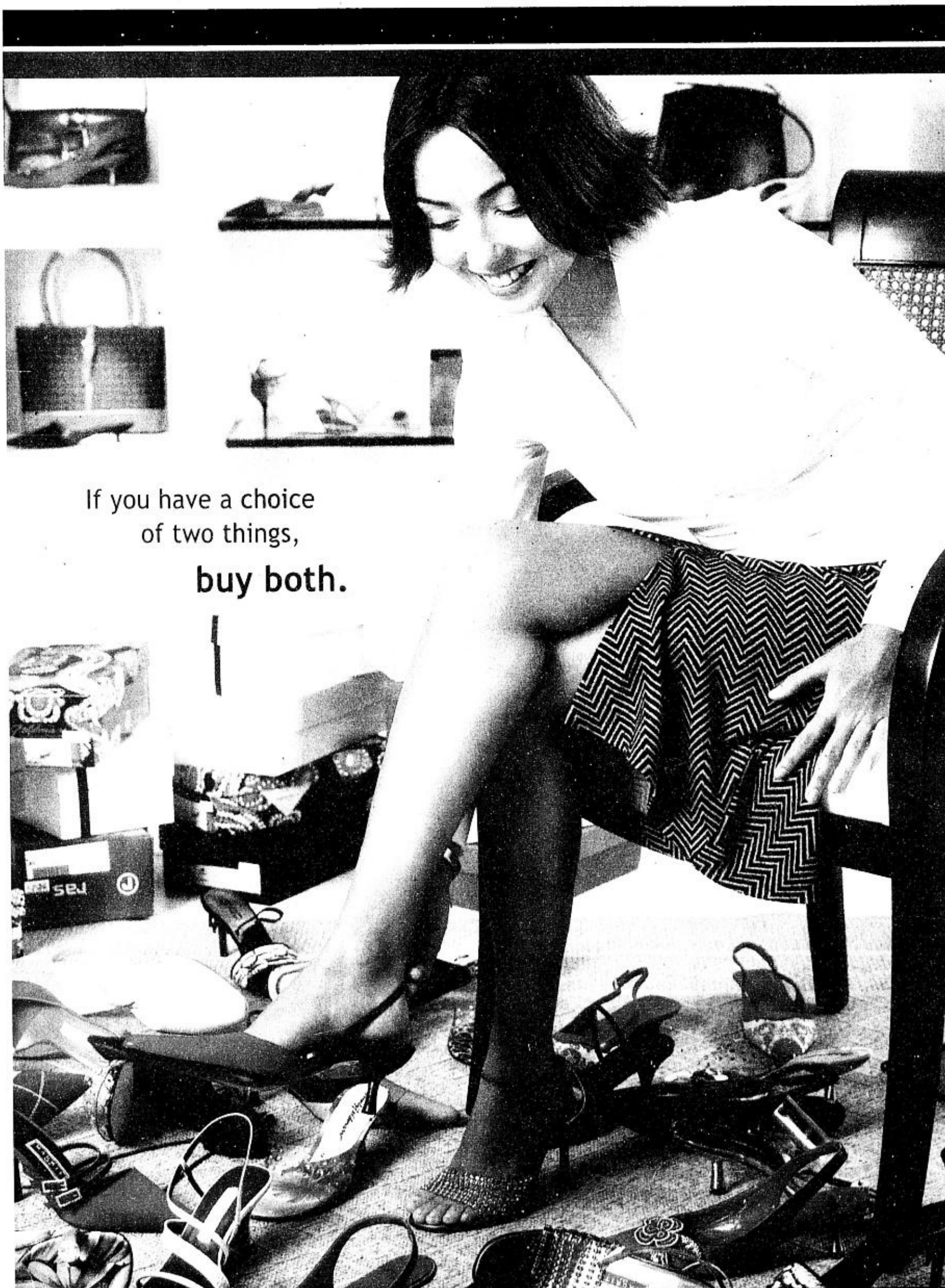
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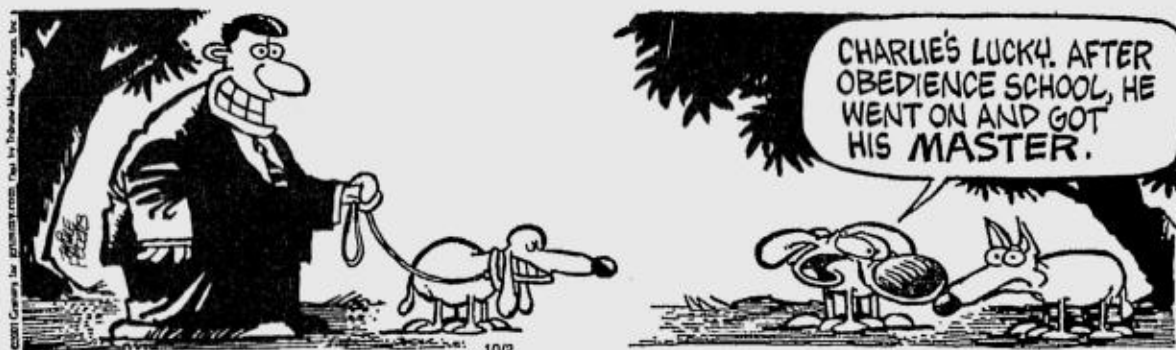
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BY JERRY SCOTT



HOROSCOPE

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Grace Slick, Henry Winkler, Charles Martin Smith, Kevin Pollak, Harry Hamlin
Happy Birthday: Your quick response and eagerness to join in new ventures will surprise and impress others. Praise and advancement should be yours. These opportunities could lead to long-lasting changes to your life if you take the initiative. Your numbers: 5, 12, 18, 23, 29, 31

- ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Don't be too quick to do what others want. Give time and effort, not cash, to friends or relatives, and avoid purchasing large items for the house. Don't expect to get along with family or your boss.
- GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Don't make a commitment before knowing what it involves and how much it will cost. Look into inexpensive and rewarding activities, especially those with children.
- LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop trying so hard to impress others, or you'll put yourself in a precarious position. Spare yourself the grief of making promises that must be kept.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you're in a relationship, your partner will be exciting, but unpredictable. If you're not, stay back and watch. You're likely to meet an entertaining and informative individual.
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Channel all your energy into making moves and money. You need to concentrate on professional advancement. You'll attract potential partners by voicing your opinions.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stop wasting time. At group functions, your charm will win you popularity and your willingness to work hard will bring you respect and appreciation.
- CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let friends or relatives lay a guilt trip on you. You may be a little stressed-out and upset, but that's no reason to let anyone treat you unfairly by turning things around and blaming you.
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take time out to think about what will make you happy, instead of trying to please those around you. You don't owe anyone an explanation, so stop fretting and start looking out for yourself.
- PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): You may have a lot on your mind today, so organize and get busy. Problems with older family members must be taken care of. Traveling will be favorable.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Flavorful
6 Swamp
10 Attention-getter
14 Doctrine
15 Tibetan teacher
16 Depend
17 This puzzle's theme
19 Arabian sultanate
20 London Johns
21 Too busy
23 Go astray
24 Ripen
25 Scott's negative
26 Opera song
28 Free from evil spirits
33 Quoted
35 Tel. Jaffa
36 Walked heavily
37 Saharan
38 Booster rocket
39 Press
40 Church area
41 Ice float
42 Madonna movie
43 Windflowers
45 Leg ends
46 In favor of
47 Fury
48 Expert
51 Twisted
56 Hold in the hold
57 Jail follower
58 Thoughtful
60 CCLXXVII doubled
61 Away from the wind
62 Road contractor
63 Business transaction
64 Poetic meadows
65 Deuce toppers

DOWN
1 Relative size
2 Passion
3 Disparaging
4 March 15th
5 Sawbones
6 "Books of Blood" author Barker
7 Great review
8 Hebrew harvest festival
9 Don Juan
10 Defensive
11 Tractor-trailer
12 Czech or Slovak
13 Daily of "Cagney & Lacey"
18 Ovid's outfit
22 Elevator cage
24 Helping hand
27 Salvational
28 Civil Rights martyr Medgar
29 Word on a crossword sign
30 Annoying
31 Chimney dust
32 Ferber or Buchanan
33 Water-to-wine city
34 Persian Gulf nation
35 "The African Queen" screenwriter
38 Atypical
42 Large shoe width
44 Spanish gold
45 Succumb to worry
47 Climbing vines
49 Collection of quail
50 Water plichers
51 Blackguards
52 Podrida
53 Brad or spike
54 Port beginning?
55 Concept
56 Arcturus or Rigel
59 Suitable

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



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Health benefits of correct weight loss

ACCORDING to the International Obesity Task Force, there is a reliable and more effective way of determining if a person is overweight or obese. Body mass index (BMI) is used to measure excess weight. BMI is a person's weight in kilograms divided by his height in meters squared. According to the task force, generally, a BMI of less than 25 means a person is healthy; 25-29.9 means that a person is overweight; 30 or more means that a person is obese.

A study of the World Health Organization revealed that the risk of developing life-threatening illnesses, such as type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease, increases progressively as BMI increases from 20-30. Overall death rates nearly doubles as BMI increases from 25-32. The amount of fat and its distribution in the body is linked to the risk of morbidity and mortality. People whose

fat is concentrated in the abdomen are more likely to develop health problems associated with excess weight.

The task force emphasized the importance of correct weight loss and weight management program. Studies have shown that weight loss of 5-10 percent of total body weight is sufficient to produce significant health benefits. Also, a major study involving over 5,000 physicians and 15,000 overweight men and women has confirmed that the weight-loss drug Xenical (Orlistat) can support physicians by helping their patients in their battle to lose weight. The average weight loss with Xenical after seven months of treatment was approximately 11 percent of total body weight—with participants losing around 3 inches from their waist measurement.

To find a calculator for determining BMI, visit www.managing-yourweight.com.

How to avoid the cold virus

A PHLEGM-FILLED cough, a runny nose, severe and constant sneezing—all of these are symptoms of common cold. But experts believe that they are also cold senders, launching tiny droplets of mucus into the air with every wheeze, hack and honk.

In the past, most people believed that most symptoms would clear up after a week even without medication. But now, the cold virus is proving to be more resilient to the medication. And it has become a precursor to more complicated infections in the middle ear and the respiratory tract.

There is a multitude of cold medications available over the counter and more are being developed to fight the cold virus. But the best way to stay healthy against colds is prevention. The following is a short list of ways to prevent being infected:

- The best way to avoid the cold virus, or any virus for that matter, is simple hand washing. Most germs are transmitted from your hands to your nose and mouth. So every time you go to the bathroom, before every

meal, or whenever your hands feel dirty, wash your hands.

- Avoid unnecessarily touching your facial area, especially your nose and mouth. Your hands may look and feel clean but virus transmission can never be seen by the naked eye.

- Have enough sleep—at least six to eight hours a day. Sleep is the best and most natural way for your body to re-energize.

- Make your body fit and strong by exercising regularly. Exercise does not only make your body look good, it also strengthens your immune system.

- Eat a well-balanced diet. An undernourished body will have a harder time fighting off any disease onslaught. Eat up to power up!

- Fortify your immune system, a complex internal defense designed to protect your body from the assault of disease-causing troublemakers. There are a number of herbal medicine and vitamins that rev up our immunity including: Echinacea—a wildflower thought to stimulate the immune system to fight illness. Take this medication at the first sign of cold. Zinc may

also help short-circuit a cold. It helps hasten the response of lymphocytes against any attack against the body. Gaining at least 16 mg. a day would keep the immune system functioning properly.

Vitamin C has been touted for its immune-enhancing effects on the body. It increases the levels of interferon and interleukin, biochemicals that help the immune system fight infection. Experts recommend getting 400 IU a day.

Most Vitamin C products available in the market cause gastric irritation and leave a sour after-taste. Doctors recommend Potencee Vitamin C because not only does it give the maximum dosage of 500 mg of Ascorbic Acid needed to fight colds. It is the only brand of Vitamin C which is coated, therefore minimizing gastric irritation. Aside from the fact that Potencee does not leave a sour after-taste. Most importantly, Potencee is very pocket-friendly to budget-conscious consumers with its affordable price. That's more value for your money.

AN EXPLOSION OF GERM-KILLING FRESHNESS

It is certainly the kind of explosion you'll love to experience inside your mouth. And it comes to you in a hip green color and a new minty flavor. FreshBurst Listerine is the same hardworking Listerine that clearly lives up to what it delivers. It kills more than 90% of germs that cause bad breath and gum disease. So you can experience that explosively cool, germ-free, fresh breath sensation that no ordinary mouthwash can offer.

Now you can explode with a new confidence with those bad breath germs blasted to pieces. Gargle with new FreshBurst Listerine -- the fresh end to mouth germs.



Bilis
patak,
Bilis
patay
ang

SKIN
FUNGI

sa presyong
patak-
patak.

New
Tioconazole
Trosyd Lotion

Hindi kasing mahal ng ibang 5 gram antifungal creams. Konting patak lang, bilis-patay ang an-an, buni, athlete's foot at had-had. At dahil lotion, it spreads easily and vanishes quickly. With the same potent formula that's also available in cream.

Bilis-patak. Bilis-patay.

If symptoms persist, consult your physician.

Pfizer



Common...

(From page D1)

putting money in a bank where your money earns interest for you even if you don't do anything. Your muscles will get soft from the lack of exercise and if you take in excess calories, your fat cells will enlarge giving the visual impression that your muscles have turned into fat.

Will step aerobics make my calves big?

If this were true, body builders would not go through all the trouble of lifting very heavy weights to make their calves bigger—they would just do step aerobics every day! Seriously though, if you continually go up and down a step bench on the balls of your feet or step on the edge of the bench with your heels hanging off, it can result in a shortened calf muscle that looks like a ball is stuck at the back of your lower leg. To avoid this, use the right step aerobics technique. Step up with a flat foot and step down on the ball of foot, rolling onto the heel.

What specific exercises will remove the fat in my thighs (waist, hips, arms, etc.)?

Current research indicates that you cannot "spot-reduce" fat from specific areas of the body, meaning you cannot expect side leg lifts alone to reduce the fat in your hips. Tests done on tennis players show that the dominant arm (the arm they use to swing the racket) is bigger, has more muscle mass but has the same fat percentage as the inactive arm. Exercise stimulates fat reduction throughout the entire body, not just in localized areas. Thus, a hundred abdominal crunches a day will not necessarily reduce the fat in your abdomen. Use cardiovascular exercise and sensible eating habits to reduce body fat and use specific spot exercises to tighten and shape the muscles underneath for a more streamlined you.

If I exercise, can I eat whatever I want and not gain weight?

If you eat more than you burn, you can exercise three to four hours a day and still gain weight. It is simply a case of more calories coming in than calories going out. Don't make exercise an excuse to overeat. Always remember that it is much easier to eat two scoops of ice cream than it is to burn it off.

Why am I losing in inches but not in pounds?

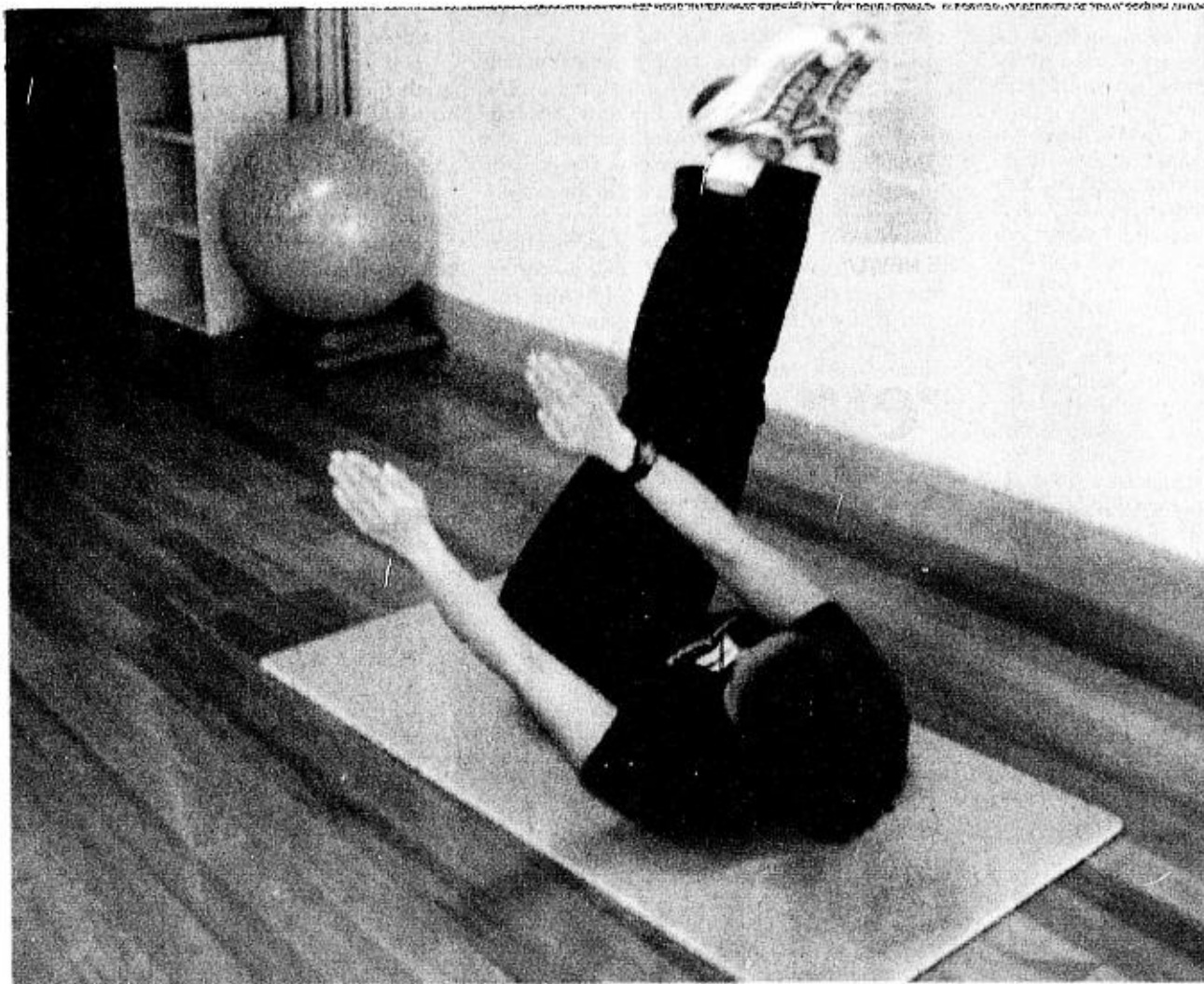
It seems like a paradox to lose inches but not pounds when you start exercising, but this is a common observation. It is because your muscle cells are getting denser and heavier (translation: harder, firmer, more toned) and your fat cells are getting smaller. Muscles are more dense than fat. One kilo of muscle weighs exactly the same as one kilo of fat, but the muscle occupies a smaller space. Oftentimes, the gain in muscle weight and the loss in fat weight balances out on the scale. That's why you lose in inches but not necessarily in pounds.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold the 2001 National Fitness Convention on Nov. 24 and 25 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig. International presenters are Lawrence Biscontin (Group Exercise), Dr. Mark Slavin (Personal Training) and John Young (Fitness Management). Biscontin will hold a Fitness Yoga Certification on Nov. 23 and a Resist-a-Ball Certification on Nov. 25. Call 842-0567.

For past articles or exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Opposite arm and leg pendulum



STRENGTHENS and tones the abdominal muscles

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back with arms and legs extended toward the ceiling.
2. Contract your abdominal muscles to stabilize the core of your body while you take the arms and legs sideways in opposite directions. Repeat the other way.
3. Continue moving from one side to the other in a fluid and controlled manner.
4. Exhale as you take your limbs to the side and inhale as you switch direction.

Performance tips:

1. It is very important that you tighten up the abdominal muscles before you begin to move your arms and legs. If you do not stabilize at the core of your body, you might lose control and suddenly drop your arms or your legs. This can lead to excess and sudden twisting of the spine.
2. If you have to jerk to bring your limbs back to the center of your body, you are probably going too far off to the side. Go only as far as you can return to the center with precision and control.
3. For a more advanced variation, try curling the upper torso as you go into an opposite pendulum motion.

Repetitions:

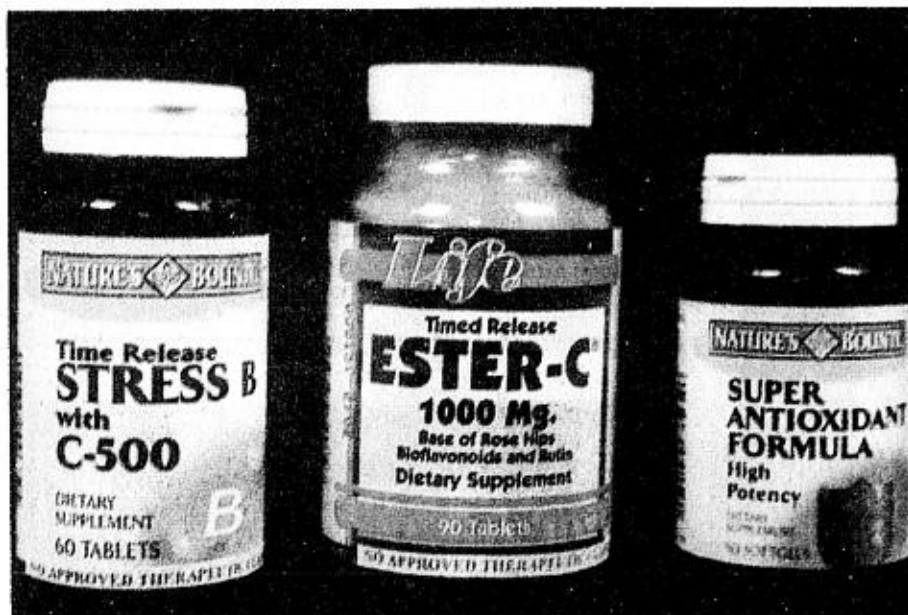
One repetition equals going to the right and left. Do 10-12 repetitions.

New vitamins that suit one's needs and lifestyle

VITAMINS and a properly balanced diet are very important to keep our bodies in good health, protect us against diseases, and strengthen our bones, blood, brain and other vital organs. There is a store that offers a wide array of vitamins—Health Express. Its line of vitamins and minerals offers special features and combinations suited to your needs and lifestyle.

Vitamin B-Complex is what turns fats, proteins and carbohydrates into energy. It is known to keep your nervous system functioning healthily. It also assists in promoting positive mental health. It is needed for healthy skin and proper brain functioning. It also aids in the development of red blood cells and the formation of healthy antibodies. Stress and drinking caffeine or alcohol can deplete this vitamin. Health Express carries Nature's Bounty Timed Release Stress B with Vitamin C-500. This combination of B complex with high dosages combined with Vitamin C is a very good antistress vitamin. The timed release factor makes the vitamins stay in the body longer than regular vitamins (up to 10 hours longer).

Vitamin C is essential in protecting cells.



It also builds up your body's resistance against infection, sickness or disease. Health Express' Lifetime Timed Release Ester-C 1000 is the vitamin for those who are acidic or work in an environment that is conducive to sickness. Esterification is the process that makes this vitamin less acidic so that those with sensitive stomachs can

drink this. The high dosage makes it ideal for smokers, people fighting cancer, and doctors and nurses dealing with sick people.

Then there is the super vitamin concoction—Nature's Bounty Super Anti-Oxidant Formula—which contains four powerful antioxidant nutrients: a high

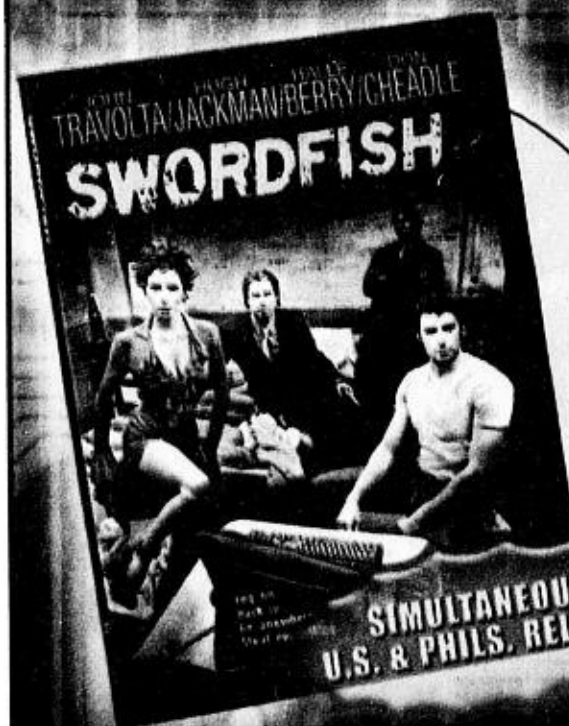
dosage of Beta Carotene (protects cells against pollution and cancer; it builds strong bones), Vitamin C and E (for healthy blood circulation) and Selenium. Selenium maximizes the absorption of Vitamin E in the body. Smoking, drinking and pollution introduce excessive free radicals into the body, which attack body cells and damage proteins. This Super Anti-Oxidant Formula protects your body against these free radicals that can cause cancer.

Men and women have different vitamin needs that's why Health Express offers the complete daily vitamin system that brings fresh, potent protection in convenient, easy-to-carry packets. The Women's pack includes Multivitamins, Vitamin C with Rose Hips, Multiminerals, Calcium and Calcium Magnesium to guard against osteoporosis. The Men's pack has the same but contains more Vitamin E for extra energy and resistance.

Health Express stores are located at Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Tutuban Center, Ermita Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Iloilo, Bacolod and Los Baños.

HARD ACTION...HIGH TECH...HIGH SPEED!

The Dynamite Thriller Explodes on



DVD
VIDEO

EXCLUSIVE DVD EXTRAS:

- The Making of Swordfish
- The Effects in Focus
- Feature Length Commentaries
- 3 Alternate Endings
- Restricted Files: Hidden Features
- Original Theatrical Trailer
- Cast/Director Film Highlights

AstroVision

Now Available at AstroVision Outlets Nationwide

New technology to diagnose allergy

THE PREVALENCE and growing incidence of allergic diseases like rhinitis, sinusitis, dermatitis, asthma and food allergy affect almost 10 percent of our population today. This reflects increased exposures and enhanced responses to allergens, which adversely affect one's quality of life. Not only does allergy attack disrupt one's routine and lifestyle, it also affects an individual's budget and income.

Allergy is the body's abnormal response to normally harmless substances. When exposed to allergens, the body produces disease-fighting antibodies called immunoglobulin E or IgE. The resulting antibody (immunoglobulin E) reacts with the harmless substance, or allergen, producing histamine and other inflammatory substances during the process. Itching, sneezing, coughing, wheezing, watery eyes, inflammation, and fatigue are symptoms of allergic reactions, which are always annoying, frequently debilitating, and in some cases, even life-threatening.

However, allergic diseases can be controlled and their symptoms prevented or minimized through proper knowledge and diagnosis.

Healthway Medical Clinics offers assistance to allergic persons through its allergy diagnosis technology, the UniCAP system. Through the UniCAP system, a single blood sample is used to test the various allergens at the same time, thus ensuring quick yet accurate



diagnosis of allergy. Three major types of allergy tests included in the UniCAP system are the total IgE test, Phadiatop, and specific IgE test.

Healthway offers the UniCAP allergy system in all of its seven clinics at Ayala Avenue, Greenbelt, Binondo, SM City, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall and the Laguna Technopark. Healthway is a chain of budget-friendly outpatient clinics that houses over 400 highly competent family medicine physicians, specialists and subspecialists. Call 893-7910/7920/7940.

Activities to heal your emotional pain

KYTHE Inc., a nonstock, nonprofit organization that caters to the psycho-social needs of children in hospitals through its Child Life Program, invites parents and caregivers, who have lost their children due to chronic illnesses like cancer and heart ailments, to "Banyuhay (Bagong Anyo ng Bayan)." It will be held on Nov. 10, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Fernwood Gardens on Cenacle Road, QC.

Banyuhay offers bereaved parents and caregivers an opportunity to gather psycho-spiritual and emotional support. Activities include group counseling, art therapy with artists Patrick and Sarah de

Veyra and Eleanor Yu and music therapy courtesy of Hanged, a group of talented singers from the Jesuit Communications Foundation.

Call Tina or Allan at 922-6370. This activity is cosponsored by Citibank with the Philippine Business for Social Progress and Jaime Paterno Foundation.



LAKAN Bakor chair and PBSP trustee Ambassador Bienvenido Tan Jr. (right) during the inauguration of PGH's isolation and reverse isolation wards



THE NEWLY refurbished cancer ward for children at PGH

Foundation addresses health problems of the poor

SINCE the Philippine General Hospital was founded in 1910, this historic public hospital has not only symbolized UP's academic dominance in the field of medicine but has also showcased government's uninspiring attempt to provide quality medical care for the poor.

What is the diagnosis to explain government's lifeless performance? Any PGH nurse or doctor will tell you that the hospital suffers from a chronic institutionalized malady called "lack of funds," a fiscal sickness that is even more pronounced in other public hospitals.

Through the years, a host of private individuals and organizations have come to the aid of PGH and one of them is the Lakan Bakor Foundation led by its chair, Ambassador Bienvenido Tan Jr., who is also an active trustee of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, one of the country's largest social development foundations.

Lakan Bakor, which means "healer-priest" in old Tagalog, has been helping PGH by pooling resources from other donors and foundations to fund a wide variety of projects that help PGH provide better care for the sick.

Lakan Bakor was formally established on Jan. 18, 1989 and its primary goal is to provide financial support for the treatment and diagnostic needs of indigent patients. The foundation's projects are a way of helping health professionals meet the needs of their



PGH now offers an air-conditioned, fun-filled playroom not only for child-patients but also for children visiting their relatives.

patients.

Examples of Lakan Bakor's projects at the PGH include creating isolation and reverse isolation wards to prevent disease contamination; creating cheerful, air-conditioned play wards for children to help them cope with pain and sickness; establishing and maintaining asthma centers to help asthma sufferers manage their affliction; donating equipment and medicines; and constructing a pediatric cancer ward that is bright, airy, colorful and friendly to children.

Beneficial projects

To Lakan Bakor's credit, they have made it a rule to never start any project that cannot be sustained either by themselves or by others. "We have seen too many donations go to projects that were very nice in the beginning then later amounted to nothing after a while. That's why we always make sure that what we fund will continue for a long time and will be beneficial to many," says Mari Tan Delfin, a veterinarian. She and her husband, Dr. Manuel Delfin, an ophthalmologist, are

the workforce behind Lakan Bakor Foundation.

Mari is also the daughter of Ambassador Tan. She continues to devote a great deal of her energies and Lakan Bakor's resources to help PGH help the poor. There is very little compensation or even recognition for the job but she and her husband find the work very gratifying and fulfilling. She hopes that "the Philippine health care system emphasize and exert most of its resources toward the prevention of disease. I believe that if this is done well then the demand for services in the treatment of disease, which PGH has to offer, becomes less imperative. It is good to note that PGH is emphasizing education in disease prevention."

Faced with the grim reality that the PGH has very limited resources to care for the poor and the sick, Mari can only express her high regard for the hospital's workers. "Considering the limited resources, one cannot help but admire the compassion, tenacity and courage of the Filipino health professional."

The country is fortunate that organizations such as the Lakan Bakor Foundation have taken up the burden of trying to find ways and means to address the health problems of the poor. There are a few more like them out there, working quietly, receiving little recognition, but still making a difference in people's lives.

A sick boy gets his wish

ANTHONY "Igi Boy" Arias could have wished to meet Mickey Mouse or Batman instead. Maybe even Godzilla or King Kong. But when he was given the opportunity to meet anyone from anywhere in the world, he chose Jollibee.

Afflicted with a rare and serious illness, 7-year-old Igi Boy of Sampaloc, Manila got his two final wishes during a simple but highly emotional get-to-know-you party tendered by Jollibee Foods Corp. and Make-A-Wish Foundation Phils. just for him.

He arrived at Jollibee Muralla (Intramuros) with a facemask ("to prevent infection," says his mother) and a bewildered look. His mother Loida, a housewife who works part-time as clinical instructor, instantly burst into tears, while his father Antonio, a jeepney driver, tried hard to hold back his tears.

A Studio 23 representative hosted the get-together and cracked jokes all throughout the event, which kept the audience in stitches. The young boy was not even smiling.

Officers of Make-A-Wish explained what the party was for and tried their best to cheer up the sick child. Still no reaction. It was only when the emcee announced that someone Igi Boy wishes to meet has arrived that the kid's face lightened up. He immediately turned his gaze onto the stairway. And there he was, Jollibee himself, happily waving to the crowd.

Jollibee gave the still shy Igi Boy a big hug and handed him a party cake with the mascot's face on it.

Jollibee then performed a hilarious dance number, and by that time, Igi boy was already laughing.

As the party went on, he got his other wish: a brand-new Sony PlayStation which he and his elder brother immediately played with even while the party was still ongoing. Afterward, everyone had a hearty meal of Chicken Joy and Spaghetti, Igi Boy's all-time favorites, plus Peach Mango Pie and Buco Piña Pie.

Igi Boy is one of the hundreds of sick children who send their wishes to the local chapter of Make-A-Wish Foundation each year. So far, the foundation has granted 50 wishes since it was put up in 1999. Igi Boy was their 51st "Wish Child."

Make-A-Wish Foundation is the world's largest wish-granting organization, and grants wishes to children who are afflicted with life-threatening or terminal illnesses. Wishes range from meeting famous international celebrities to simply having a party. More than 100,000 wishes have been granted by the foundation in 22 countries around the world.

With children of all ages as its most important market, Jollibee has always endeavored to give Filipino children more than just great-tasting food, cheerful services and fun, colorful toys. Part of its corporate mission is to share its success with children, especially those who come from underprivileged families, through public service programs and projects that are concerned with their welfare.



IGIBOY Arias sharing a cheerful moment with Jollibee and his family

Mama spent the best years of her life caring for you.

Isn't it time you return the favor?

TENA
slip
Adult Diaper



Give her the best care available.

Only TENA adult diapers give Mama the highest level of comfort and protection. TENA's Dry-Fast Core quickly absorbs liquids to keep wetness away from the skin. It's the only diaper with Curved Leg and Waist Elastics that create a snug, leak-free fit.

And that means giving Mama the love and caring she deserves.

If you want to try any of the TENA products in your own home, simply fill in the coupon and send it to us by mail or by fax.

Name of user	Age	Sex
First Name	M.I.	Last Name

Please send me a sample pack of TENA slip Adult Diaper

Please send free TENA sample to:

Address:

Tel No. Area Code Telephone Zip Code:

Name of respondent:

First Name M.I. Last Name

Relationship to user: ☐ Relative ☐ Professional Caregiver

Please mail or fax this coupon to:

SCA HYGIENE:
PRODUCTS CORPORATION
P.O. Box 103 Ayala Alabang Vill. 1799
Muntinlupa City
or Fax to: (02) 809-12-30

PDI-10-30-01

Seminar on character reformation via psychic consultation



HIGH-PROTEIN BARS

You can satisfy your chocolate cravings and savor your favorite snack, while packing your body with essential protein and staying in shape. Universal Nutrition HiProtein bars are loaded with healthy grams of protein and other health-building nutrients. Available at Healthy Options branches nationwide.



NU Skin recently launched CordyMax Cs-4, which promotes vitality and stamina naturally. The main ingredient of CordyMax Cs-4 is Cordyceps sinensis, a blade-shaped mushroom from Qinghai Province in China, considered one of the most valued and useful dietary products available today. CordyMax Cs-4 is recommended for people with a hectic schedule and the elderly.

CordyMax Cs-4 is manufactured by Pharmanex, and is available locally through Nu Skin Philippines. Call 689-0333.

KIMBERLY-CLARK Philippines Inc. Introduces new Kotex Pads. Kotex has three variants—Maxi for medium to heavy flow days; Maxi with Wings to hold the pad in place, preventing side leakage, and Overnights for heavy flow days and extra protection at the back.



EXPERT psychic counselor Mary Ann Schmitt will conduct a seminar-workshop on "Character reformation through psychic consultation" on Nov. 4, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Summit Lounge, Manila Galleria Suites.

The workshop aims to increase one's potential for success in both the personal and professional spheres.

Topics include "Understanding yourself," "Understanding others," "Knowing your life's mission," "Your attitudes toward business and management," "Your attitudes toward your love partner" and "Keys to character change."

Schmitt, currently based in Germany, discovered her God-given hidden abilities while in Israel. Her long and frequent contacts with gurus and her acknowledgment of her life's mission helped in honing her psychic powers.

The phenomenal sharpening of Schmitt's innate capabilities is attributed to her being actively engaged in spiritual healing, crystal therapy, intuitive reading, psychic counseling and related fields for the last 10 years.

Registration, which is limited to 30 participants, is on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 687-7898, (0919) 599-3360 or (0919) 553-1971.

EXHIBIT. A pavilion showcasing the latest sports, fitness and leisure products manufactured in the United States and distributed throughout the world will be one of the major attractions at the FIT International Sports, Fitness and Leisure Show May 23-26, 2002 at the World Trade Center, Manila.

Manufacturers of sports, fitness and leisure goods from the Philippines and other Asia-Pacific countries will also display their products in the

WEEKLY DOSAGE



OVERDRIVE, a product manufactured by Pharmanex and distributed by Nu Skin, aims to address the need for pre- and post-workout dietary supplementation. OverDrive furnishes the body with antioxidants, which help in reaching normal energy metabolism, extending stamina and promoting post-exercise muscle recovery. It also has hydromins that replace minerals and electrolytes lost during exercise. The product has key essential nutrients for maximum benefits: B Vitamins, folic acid, antioxidants, N-acetyl L-cysteine, hydromins, magnesium and proteolytic enzymes, bromelain and papain. Call Nu Skin at 689-0333.



EPIDERM-A Advance Whitening Lotion is specifically formulated to answer the specific dermal needs of every individual. For normal, dry, oily or delicate skin, Epiderm-A Advance Whitening Lotion gives skin the proper pampering it deserves. It is formulated with sunscreen so the skin gets adequate protection. Available in leading supermarkets and drugstores nationwide.

trade show.

Bulk buyers, distributors and wholesalers have signified their participation in the event, which is organized by Leverage International (Consultants), a leading organizer of international trade shows.

Call Beth Cruz or Rolland A. Sanchez at 818-6828, 813-2473 or 810-1389, or fax 810-1594.

The FIT International Sports, Fitness and Leisure show will feature sports products, fitness apparel and footwear, equipment for medical rehabilitation, fitness machines, and travel and leisure items, including camping and garden furniture, engines and outboard instruments, and tents and accessories.



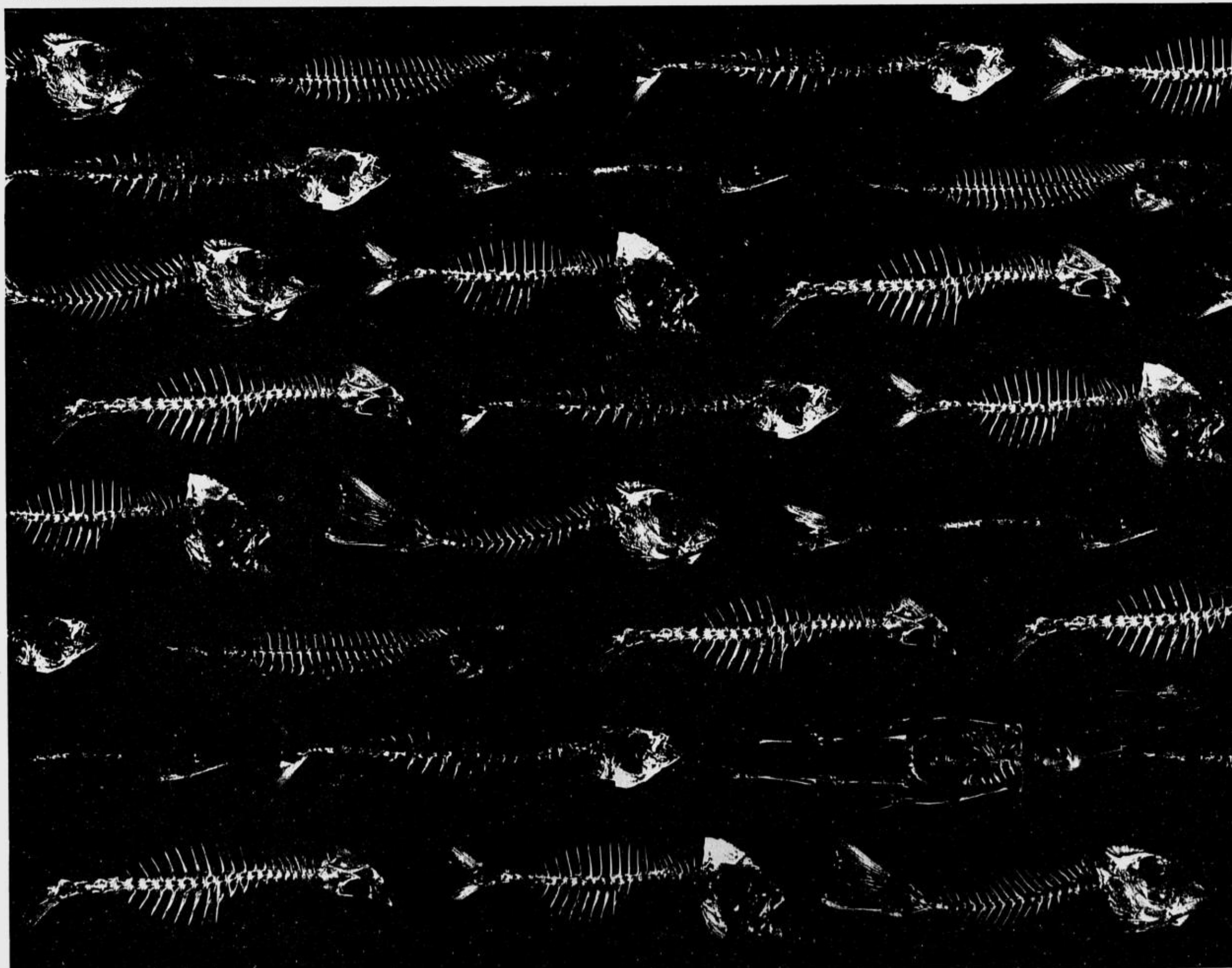
NEW CHOCOLATE MILK

Anchor Milk now comes in chocolate flavor, which is ideal for kids. The choco drink combines the natural nutrition of New Zealand Milk and the rich and creamy taste of chocolate. Anchor Chocolate Milk Drink is clean, pure and fresh. It is available in 250 ml packages.



SO Soya+ is a boxful of fat-free, cholesterol-free soy protein product (good for 7-8 servings). Each box contains a free seasoning pouch. It is available at Healthy Options, with branches at 1/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L Festival Super-mall, Alabang; G/L Ayala Center, Cebu City; LG/L SM City, North Edsa; 2/L, SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Makati, and at 2/L SM Megamall B.

This space was provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer, a Corporate Partner of WWF-Philippines.



Some of the species at risk from illegal fishing. Help WWF preserve our national fisheries. And the families who depend on them. Call 433 3222 for information and to make a donation.





PEPPER Teehankee and Margarita Locsin with Margarita Kravstova of Kazakhstan at L'Incontro



JR Isaac with Nardos Wondemu of Ethiopia and Hilda Bukozo of Tanzania at Café Havana

Beauties pitch for the environment

THE FIRST Miss Earth will be crowned tonight at 9 on RPN 9. The beauty pageant with an environmental cause is the brainchild of Ramon Monzon and Lorraine Schuck, producers of the event.

Forty-two candidates from all over the world are vying for the title. Prizes include \$20,000 in cash, South Sea pearl brooch set in white gold encrusted with 5 carats worth of diamonds from Fe S. Panlilio Jewelers and a business-class airline ticket to any destination from Korean Air.

The environmental beauties visited the country's popular destinations. They spent five days in Palawan as guests of Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and Ivan Lim of Dos Palmas; two nights in Cebu, which were sponsored by the Department of Tourism; an overnight stay in Matabungkay Beach Club for an environmental seminar conducted by

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee



Roy Alvarez. The rest of their visit was spent in Metro Manila, sampling different cuisines and hot spots, planting trees and visiting charity beneficiaries.

The Miss Earth delegates' schedule was so grueling but they remained patient.

Miss Earth is presented by Lux, Cream Silk, Pond's and Close-up. Major sponsors are Avon Color and Banco Filipino while the minor sponsor is Carnation Nonfat Milk. Hotel Inter-Continental is the delegates' official residence.



FORMER Miss Philippines Alou Gonzales



MISS Brazil Simone Regis in her national costume with Hotel Inter-Con GM Michael Hermann and Ramon Monzon



TIMOTHY Go with Carlene Aguilar and Shamita Singha of India



MISS USA Abby Royce and Brian



PEACHY Veneracion and Reli German at the Legend Hotel in Puerto Princesa



ADAM Pineda and Colette of Unilever



DANIELA Stucan of Argentina in Palawan



MISS Earth beauties enjoy the waters of Dos Palmas.

Even with new procedures, eyeglasses are still a necessity

BY CLARO M. CINCO

THE US Federal Trade Commission has received numerous inquiries concerning potentially misleading promotions and advertising for radial keratotomy (RK), photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) and laser assisted in-situ keratomileusis (Lasik). In the August 2001 issue of the Review of Refractive Surgery (supplement to the Review of Ophthalmology), contributing editor Lisette Hilton wrote an article titled "Deceptive advertising." Hilton said that in their zeal to lure patients for refractive surgery, many surgeons fail to tell the whole story in their marketing.

This topic is timely considering the recent growing competition among providers of laser refractive surgery to attract patients. In fact, in many cities abroad, these services are even established and offered in the malls. As such, aggressive marketing becomes part of the imperatives to the industry's growth, if not survival.

There is nothing wrong about advertising as long as it is truthful. Under the FTC Act, deception can occur through omission of information when that information is necessary to prevent an affirmative representation from being misleading, or simply by remaining silent, if doing so constitutes an implied but false representation. An omission is considered deceptive only if the absence of the information causes the advertisement to convey an inaccurate impression about a material fact.

"Throw away your glasses." "Glasses will soon become museum pieces." These seem to be simple enough claims to what refractive surgery can do for patients. After all, postoperatively many people won't



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

need glasses for most daytime activities. But Hilton says, "Still, this fact is not a sufficiently strong reason to make the claim. Other potential areas for misleading advertising include the simplicity of Lasik without giving consumers a clear explanation of the potential risks, or implying that every Lasik patient will see 20/20 postoperatively, when in fact some may not."

According to Mathew Daynard, senior lawyer at the Bureau of Consumer Protection in Washington, D.C., there's currently a great deal of advertising for refractive surgery—more than any other area of surgery. "The advertising [for refractive surgery] seems to hype just the benefits and low cost, without telling consumers that there can be serious risks and complications... consumers are not getting the full picture from the advertising."

Concerned about deceptive or misleading claims, the FTC and the American Academy of Ophthalmology jointly released a consumer brochure about Lasik in August 2000 (see online at www.ftc.gov). Called

"Basik Lasik", the text emphasizes that "Lasik is surgery and not simply vision correction. While thousands of people have had the procedure and are satisfied with their results, the surgery does carry risks and complications do occur."

Complications

According to the AAO, those complications occur in 5 percent or fewer of refractive procedures. The AAO also notes that while seven out of 10 patients achieve 20/20 vision, this does not always mean "perfect" vision, as the average consumer might presume. Even with Lasik, most people will still require reading glasses at about age 45. Moreover, the brochure makes clear that Lasik is still a relatively new procedure—too new to know about long-term complications beyond five years postoperatively. The federal guidelines for eye care providers covering PRK and Lasik can be viewed at www.ftc.gov. It says "An advertisement is deceptive under Section 5 of the FTC Act, and therefore, unlawful, if it contains a representation or omission

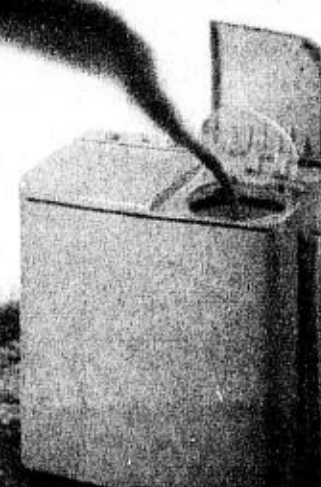
of fact that is likely to mislead consumers acting reasonably under the circumstances, and that representation or omission is material that is likely to affect a consumer's choice or use of a product or service."

Advertisers are responsible for what they say in their ads, says FTC, which lists these areas of concern: 1) Advertisers must have substantiation for all objective claims about a product or service before the claims are disseminated. Scientific evidence is necessary for claims regarding safety, efficacy, or success. Testimonials are not sufficient evidence. 2) Deception also can occur when relevant information is omitted. An ad must state real results, not a selective representation of some or most of the results. 3) While the claim that patients can throw their glasses away is blatantly deceptive, even more limited claims might also be deceptive: for example, suggesting that those with myopia and no other refractive vision deficiencies can throw away their eyeglasses after refractive surgery. 4) The ad must include a disclaimer that a significant number of patients might require eyeglasses to achieve their best vision for reading conditions and night driving.

Eyeglasses will soon become museum pieces? That's a blatant, deceptive claim, according to FTC standards. Let us not vilify eyeglasses, which have been serving the vision needs of humanity for centuries.

The author is an Emeritus Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, Life Member of the American Optometric Association, Dean Emeritus of Cebu Doctors' College of Optometry and 1988 International Optometrist of the Year by the World Council of Optometry.

Twin Power.



The Magic Chef Washer - now in a twin-tub assembly.

After our Fully Automatic Single Tub Washer, we just had to come up with another winner.

Introducing the Magic Chef Twin Tub washers. An extra-wide 32 cm. pulsator for deep cleansing action. A higher spin speed for better water extraction, for less drying time spent. A larger spinner/extractor, for maximum drying action. And an energy efficient design that saves your power and water bill.

More performance for less cost, the ultimate in energy-saving laundry. The Magic Chef Twin Tub washers. Now that's what you call an encore.

Magic Chef USA

FREE 6 Vernet 6 Persil 35mL For every purchase of Magic Chef twin tub.

Promo period starts Sept. 15 - Dec. 31, 2001. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3088. Series of 2001.

Also available: MCW42T (4.2 Kg) & MCW60T (6.0 Kg) For inquiries, contact us at: 374-4567 to 74 or www.americanhomeappliances.com

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KUNG MGA KWEN2 ang Trip Mo...



RED LADY

Madilim ang gabi sa isang ancestral house nang nagpakita kay Ella ang isang babaeng nakapula, mga paa'y nakalutang sa lupa at lumuluha ng dugo. Ano talaga ang sekretong bumabalot sa Red Lady? Makalabas pa kaya nang buhay si Ella at ang kaniyang barkada?



ang bagay sa 'yo!



SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

Sa kagustuhan ni Des at barkada niyang malaman kung sino ang pumatay sa kaibigang si Marj, sila'y nag-spirit of the glass. Makayanan kaya nilang harapin ang katotohanan? O ang ibang ispiritung maaring sumapi sa baso?



MANDALA'S TRIBE

Isang tribo ang minasaker at inilibing kasama ng kanilang kayamanan sa isang misteryosong kuweba. Makalipas ang pitong-daang taon, isang exploration team, ang nakatagpo sa kuweba at sa malaking panganib na naghihintay sa sinumang kumuha ng kayamanan...



MANANANGGAL

A bloodthirsty creature of darkness. A young, brave boy named Nonoy. And terrifying family secrets that suddenly unravel one terrifying night. Can a boy defeat the Manananggal as well as the forces of darkness that threaten to take over his body?



ANG Sumpa ni MATILDA

Binigo sa pag-asang maibig ni Josh, black magic ang igaganti ni Matilda sa binata. Lingid sa kaniya, dala niya ang sumpang di siya maaring umibig. May pag-asa pa kaya siyang lumaya sa sumpa at lumigaya? Ano naman ang mangyayari kay Josh?

It's easy to get started!

CHOOSE HOW the story develops,
choose your own adventure!

Download requests will be charged as follows:
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Ringtones and Picture Messages can only
be downloaded and previewed using selected
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NOVELA MANANANGGAL	241	HELP
Just type NOVELA and the title of the story...	Then send to 241!	To get the available commands and keywords, type HELP. Then send to 241.

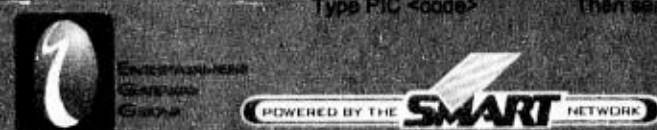
What happens next? Choose (1)Nonoy looks for his mother; (2)Confronts d creature	CHOICE 2	241
At certain points in the story, you will be asked to choose how you want the story to continue...	Type CHOICE and the number you want...	Then send to 241

To complete the FUN, puWede Ka pang
Magdownload Ng picture Messages!

At Mayroon ding Special Ringtones!

DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE CREATURE WITH THE LONG TONGUE?	PIC N28	241
	Type PIC <code>	Then send to 241

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THE THEME SONG OF THE STORY?	TONE T21	241
	Type TONE <code>	Then send to 241



Yan ang galing... without overspending!